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Lebanese president won't let PM quit

DAVID RUDGE
and news agencies

LEBANESE Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri are due to visit Damascus today in an effort to resolve the political crisis caused by Hariri's decision to resign.

Hariri announced his decision on Friday, claiming he was not able to operate freely. President Elias Hrawi refused to accept the resignation.

"True, in the past I have disagreed with Hariri, but honest to God this man wants to rebuild the country," the Beirut daily *an-Nahar* quoted Hrawi as saying.

"If he sends me his written resignation, I will not only refuse it but tear it up, because the country cannot bear a political crisis now and because it still needs him. I refuse his resignation," Hrawi told *ad-Diyar*, another Beirut daily, in an interview bitterly attacking Hariri's critics.

Hariri, a multi-millionaire with close ties to Saudi Arabia, where he made his fortune as a building contractor, was brought in as prime minister two years ago to try to overcome Lebanon's dire economic situation.

He partially succeeded in stabilizing the Lebanese pound, but inflation is still running rampant.

Last week, private sector workers staged a nationwide strike to protest the situation and press their demands for substantial wage rises.

The government banned civil servants and public sector employees from participating in the stoppages. It also slapped a ban on all public demonstrations.

Hariri, a Sunni Moslem, is still considered by many, including Hrawi, the best candidate for putting Lebanon back on stable economic footing after the devastation wreaked by 16 years of civil war.

The trouble started when he tried to enter the political field and began to take his duties as prime minister equally seriously, instead of just concentrating on the economy.

Berri, who is also head of the pro-Syrian Amal Shi'ite movement, has been a constant thorn in Hariri's side, accusing him of trying to turn the government into a one-man show.

Reports from Lebanon said Syrian President Hafez Assad had intervened in the dispute, and the two were being called to Damascus to try to resolve the matter.



Inclement weather in the capital didn't deter these children from venturing outside yesterday. (Hendler)

Bad weather claims one victim

DAVID RUDGE and BILL HUTMAN

SNOW blanketed mountain peaks in the North and some central areas yesterday as temperatures throughout the country plummeted.

The weather claimed one victim—a homeless man in Bnei Brak who died of exposure.

Several centimeters of snow fell in Hebron, with only light snow in the capital in the morning, which did not accumulate.

Roads in the Golan Heights from Kibbutz Ein Zivan to Mt. Hermon were closed for much of the day because of the snow. Plows later cut a route to the Hermon ski site from the Druse village Majdal Shams.

Ski site manager Eli Sagron said 35 cm. of snow had accumulated on the lower slopes of Mt. Hermon and up to 80 cm. on the peak.

The site is to open today to visitors for the first time this season. Sagron said they hoped some ski runs would be ready for use by tomorrow. Snow also fell on Mt. Meron and on nearby Safed last night.

Safed Mayor Moshe Haniya said heavy mechanical equipment, including plows and gravel trucks, were standing by to ensure that main routes, especially to the government hospital, would be kept open.

Haniya said teams were also ready to dispense essential supplies to residents in case some homes

were cut off and people were unable to reach stores.

Col. Koby Ya'acovi, head of Northern Command engineers corps, said the army had also put its heavy equipment on standby to help clear essential routes should it prove necessary.

While the North experienced snow, other parts of the country suffered from hail, heavy rain, and thunderstorms, often accompanied by strong gusts of wind.

Flooding was reported in several places especially in the Negev and Arava, where several roads were closed.

The Hatzbani River, one of the tributaries of the Jordan, burst its banks and threatened homes in Moshav Beit Hillel.

The winter storms are expected to die out by tomorrow and be replaced by dry but still cold weather.

The Jerusalem municipality last night called on residents to avoid driving this morning because sub-zero temperatures are expected to freeze over damp city streets.

"The best advice I can think of is for residents to listen to the radio this morning and that way they'll know exactly what the situation is," a city spokesman said last night.

PA: IDF must redeploy in areas

Cabinet meets today to discuss interim stage

ALON PINKAS
and news agencies

THE Palestinian Authority yesterday demanded that Israel implement the entire autonomy accord, including a redeployment of troops in the territories.

The demand followed comments by Israeli cabinet ministers who said the 120,000 Jews in the territories would not be safe if the IDF withdrew from Arab population centers on the eve of Palestinian elections, as stipulated by the autonomy agreement.

Arafat's cabinet discussed Palestinian negotiating positions during its weekly meeting yesterday, and came out strongly against renegotiating the framework of the agreement.

"Israel must implement everything it has agreed upon with the Palestinians," Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo told reporters after the meeting. "Redeployment and holding elections are at the top of the Palestinian agenda."

Senior Israeli officials said last week that redeployment is not feasible because of an increase in attacks on Israelis, both from the

PLO-ruled areas and from territory under Israeli control.

The interim arrangements in the territories under the Oslo Accords are to be discussed at today's cabinet meeting.

Several ministers said the discussion, which was delayed a week due to the absence of several cabinet members, will be crucial in light of the recent uncertainty of the Palestinian Authority's ability to deal with terror.

Some ministers said they feel they have been left out of the decision-making process on the interim arrangements.

The cabinet will discuss recent comments by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin that Israel should immediately negotiate a permanent settlement.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur is to present the cabinet with a plan to create Palestinian enclaves in the territories which would require the need to evacuate certain settlements.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak and senior General Security Service officials will brief

the cabinet on problems emanating from the planned redeployment of the IDF, army sources said last night.

Barak had previously warned that full redeployment and ensuring the security of settlements and roads are essentially incompatible. He is expected to highlight the complex situation that would inevitably result from the redeployment in terms of providing security for settlements close to major Palestinian population centers and securing roads used by Israelis.

According to the sources, he will also tell the cabinet that if the IDF is to redeploy on a temporary basis, it will find it difficult to regain control of city centers.

PLO-Israeli talks on Palestinian elections will resume in Cairo on Tuesday, a government spokesman and Nabil Shaath, the PA's chief negotiator, announced yesterday.

Shaath told reporters the talks would be conducted by two PLO-Israeli committees.

"One committee will discuss the concept of the interim settlement and another specialized committee will discuss elections," he said.

Palestinian Police fall short in ending violence — US

Jerusalem Post Staff
and news agencies

THE Palestinian Police have not been as effective as they could be in halting extremist violence in Gaza, US State Department officials said in a report issued on Friday. However, they concluded that overall the PLO is fulfilling its peace commitments to Israel.

The report also expressed disappointment over the fact that the Palestinian National Council has not yet formally amended its covenant to expunge sections of the document denying Israel's right to exist, and urged it to do so as soon as possible.

The assessments, contained in a report by the State Department to Congress, makes possible continued US funding for the Palestinian Authority and for other Mideast peace-related activities.

President Bill Clinton's administration is required by law to file a report assessing the PLO's progress in carrying out its peace agreement with Israel every six months.

AIPAC dismissed the report's findings, however, noting that "the Palestinian Police themselves state that it is not carrying out arrests because Yasser Arafat does not want them to. When they do make arrests, they free those arrested without interrogation or trial because Arafat wants them freed. The head of the Palestinian Police has said that it would be possible to impound illegal weap-

ons and disband illegal militias, but these things are not done because the leadership doesn't want to carry out such steps.

"If peace is to succeed in the Middle East," AIPAC said in a statement, "Arafat must change direction. The American people, the Clinton administration, and the Congress must show determination and tell the PLO that the organization cannot have good relations with the US without Arafat honoring his commitments to Israel."

The State Department report said "the Palestinian Police have not been as effective as they could have been in halting acts of violence by Hamas or Islamic Jihad in or from Gaza against Israeli soldiers and civilians."

"While the Palestinian Authority carried out a number of highly publicized mass detentions in Gaza and continued to cooperate with Israeli authorities, it has been less effective in follow-up investigation and prosecution of offenders."

It called for the PA and the Palestinian Police to "do more in this critical area," and said US officials are still "monitoring recent developments carefully."

The State Department said the

PLO's conflict with militant groups opposed to the peace process may have reached a watershed in a confrontation on November 18 when Palestinian Police killed and wounded numerous demonstrators.

"This may augur a more determined effort by the PLO to prevent violent challenges to the peace process," it said, adding: "These developments bear careful watching to confirm that the PLO is continuing to abide by its commitments."

Nevertheless, the State Department concluded that "the period since the administration's last report has confirmed the PLO's commitment to seek a peaceful negotiated settlement to its conflict with Israel."

During the reporting period, June 1 through November 30, the PLO has been negotiating in good faith and demonstrated it recognizes Israel's right to exist, the report said.

The PLO has also abided by its commitment to renounce terrorism with its statements denouncing acts of violence and terrorism having become "more timely, frequent and authoritative," it added.

It also concluded that "no PLO elements under Arafat's control directed or organized any attacks on Israelis since our last report."

Rabin: US won't force us to accept Assad's terms

Jerusalem Post and news agencies

SYRIAN President Hafez Assad is "mistaken if he believes Washington will force Israel to accept Damascus's terms for peace," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Friday.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher returns to the region on Tuesday to try to reactivate Israeli-Syrian talks, deadlocked for more than three years.

Rabin, speaking to Israeli newspaper editors and foreign correspondents, said he did not question the importance of reaching a peace treaty with Syria, but not at any price, or under any conditions.

"I think the time has come for President Assad... to understand that if he thinks the US will 'deliver' Israel—that is not the way to conduct negotiations," Rabin said. "If Syria really prefers the present situation over peace, peace cannot be forced. We cannot force it on the Syrians. The Syrians cannot force it on us, and the United States... understands that coercion and peace contradict each other."

Assad had said on Thursday that Syria prefers maintaining the

status quo, rather than responding to Israeli demands he termed "impossible to accept."

Rabin said both Israel and Arab regimes were endangered by an Iranian-backed "ugly wave of extremist, fundamentalist, terrorist Islam that has swept the Arab and Moslem world."

Noting what he termed an upsurge in mosque construction in the US and western Europe, Rabin said: "Today extremist Islam has an international infrastructure."

Senior sources in Washington said that during his trip, Christopher will reportedly request that Assad allow a congressional committee to visit Syria in order to investigate the fate of Israeli MIAs.

Meanwhile, Itamar Rabinovich, chief negotiator with Syria and ambassador to Washington, said on Friday that Assad's charges were a sign of "distress" over Israel's progress on other Middle East peace tracks.

He said Syria had hoped to offer improved ties with Arab states and a lifting of the Arab economic boycott as inducements to progress over the Golan.



Rabin: If Syria prefers the present situation over peace, peace cannot be forced. (AP)

"Today Syria has to deal with a situation in which Israel has already obtained a number of these elements," he told Army Radio.

"They feel their negotiating po-

sition has been weakened, and the Syrian negotiator's natural instinct in these circumstances is not to relax, but to rigidify his stance."

Rabinovich expressed hope the Christopher visit would lift the "onerous atmosphere" which he said recent Syrian statements had created.

"Assad thinks he can get additional concessions from us, ahead of the date that we see as the end of the time of opportunity," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said.

"I can tell him in the clearest manner: Israel does not intend further concessions," Beilin told Army Radio.

In Budapest, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Friday he is optimistic about prospects for peace with Syria.

"I am always an optimistic man, but I wish it could move a little bit quicker on the ground," Peres told Reuters.

He was in Budapest to attend the bi-annual council meeting of the Socialist International.

He is due to meet there today with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

A second German wounded in

Old City gang tried to defend Christians from Moslem attacks

SEVEN Christians from Jerusalem's Old City, including a Greek Orthodox priest, were arrested last week for allegedly forming an armed gang to protect Christians from Moslems.



Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby announced the arrests last night, saying five of the seven were remanded for seven days on Friday.

The other two, including the priest whose accidental injury while using one of the gang's weapons led to its being uncovered, were released on bail, Ben-Ruby said.

The arrests come as reports of attacks by Moslem extremists on Christian targets in the Old City

BILL HUTMAN

have increased in recent months. The Christian gang was uncovered during an investigation sparked by the hospitalization with shrapnel wounds of Father John Kodsodimitrophilos, 25, on Wednesday.

He told police a bomb was thrown at him on the Via Dolorosa. But police found no signs of a bomb during a search of the area.

Intelligence tips led investigators to two homes in the Christian Quarter, where caches containing a homemade gun, knives, spiked clubs, and other light weapons were found.

The priest later admitted that he was not wounded in a bomb attack, but when the homemade gun he tried to fire blew up in his hand, the police spokesman said.

The suspects include Samir Wakila, 22, Sami Wakila, 18, and their brother, who is a minor; Hafiz Sayid, 22, and his brother, also

a minor; Ziyad Salah, 22, and Kodsodimitrophilos.

The investigation was headed by Deputy Commander David Givati, commander of the Kishleh police station, who recently met with Old City Christian leaders to discuss their security concerns.

Police are considering setting up a special unit to secure Christian holy sites in the Old City, according to Givati.

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US promises immediate \$4m. in aid to Palestinians

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

THE United States said over the weekend it would immediately make available \$4 million in aid to the Palestinian Authority and expedite the disbursement of another \$12m.

The announcement followed an international donors meeting on Wednesday in Brussels that agreed to meet the Palestinian budget deficit of \$125m. and pump \$25m. into boosting employment in territories.

The US has also agreed to use another \$4m. to pay the salaries of the Palestinian Police.

World leaders are concerned that the economic desperation among Palestinians in the territories is fueling the violence and political unrest that could unravel the Israel-PLO accord.

After the Palestinian Authority's weekly cabinet meeting in Gaza yesterday, Nabil Shaath said

the PA discussed the allocation of economic aid pledged by international donor states in Brussels.

The donors said they would give the cash-strapped authority only \$200m. of the \$240m. pledged in 1994.

"We have indicated to the cabinet that the \$200m. will be divided as follows: \$102m. for current expenditure, \$23m. for quick projects, and \$59m. for medium-sized projects," Shaath said.

"This should give us a push to go ahead quickly with providing employment, starting projects, and paying for all current expenditure," Shaath said.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat said yesterday he would approve any rehabilitation program which would help them find employment.

"Today in the cabinet meeting we decided that anyone who will carry out any job using his hands or legs will immediately be given a job in the Palestinian Authority," Arafat said.

In Budapest yesterday, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres appealed to Western countries to back their calls for Middle East peace with cash for Palestinians trying to build autonomy.

"You always urged that we should solve the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Now that we solve it you must help us," Peres told a meeting of the Socialist International in Budapest.

Aides said Peres's message was a direct appeal to European Union states and others to back pressure for negotiations between Israel

and the PLO with new money to ensure the success of the peace effort.

"I think the PLO should be helped economically to make the Gaza Strip a more acceptable and promising place and I think it is possible to do so," Peres told Reuters after his speech to the council of the Socialist International, a world-wide grouping of social democratic and socialist parties.

Peres will join other Arab foreign ministers this week in an ad-hoc Mediterranean meeting in Budapest, according to a statement released by Peres last night.

Apart from Israel, Peres said the participants will include the foreign ministers of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt, all of whom will all be in attendance as observers at the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat waves his keffiyeh as he dances with Palestinians wounded during the intifada in Gaza City yesterday.

Peres: Pope plans trip to Israel before turn of century

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Pope John Paul plans to visit Israel before the end of the century following this year's establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Friday.

Speaking after meeting the pope, he also raised the prospect of extending the dialogue between Christians and Jews to include the Islamic world to help combat fundamentalism.

Peres said he had discussed a papal visit to Israel when he met the pontiff in the Vatican City on Thursday.

"He told me that he would do it clearly before the end of this century but he hopes it will be ahead of that," Peres told a news conference after flying from Rome to Budapest to attend the bi-annual

council meeting of the Socialist International.

"Whenever he will come I'm sure people of all religions will consider him a very welcome guest," he added.

Israel and the Holy See signed a landmark agreement last December that led this year to full diplomatic ties.

The pope, 74, said last month it would be "very significant" for him if in the year 2000 he could visit the places of the Old Testament. Such a trip would take him to Israel, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan and other countries.

Peres said the agreement between the Vatican and Israel had been put to the test, adding: "I think that both parties are rather satisfied with the way things are progressing."

Hassan, Hussein agree on Jordanian role at holy sites

AMMAN (AP) - Crown Prince Hassan yesterday met with Faisal Hussein after several months of estrangement over conflicting stands on the status of Jerusalem.

Jordan Radio said Hassan assured Hussein of "Jordan's unwavering support for the Palestinian people."

It said the prince also "reiterated Jordan's commitment to shouldering the responsibility of maintaining the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem."

Hussein "affirmed the necessity of continued Jordanian role in maintaining" the holy sites and "to keep the present situation un-

changed," the radio added.

It was the highest-level Jordanian-Palestinian talks in several months. The two sides fell out after the Israeli-Jordanian agreement in July stressed Jordan's "special role" in administering Islamic shrines in Jerusalem.

More recently, Jordan said it would relinquish control of the holy sites to the Palestinians once they resolve the territorial dispute over Jerusalem with Israel.

PLO officials said Hussein's visit to Jordan, which began Thursday, could pave the way for Arafat to come to Amman, which he last visited in May.

PLO, Hamas form reconciliation committee

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

PLO chief Yasser Arafat met with an Islamic opposition leader in Gaza Friday and formed a reconciliation committee to work out future differences and prevent violence.

The meeting between Arafat and Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar ended two weeks of tense uncertainty in the Gaza Strip, sparked by a bloody confrontation between Palestinian Police and Islamic activists on November 18 that left 12 dead.

"Both sides agreed this morning that the most important thing is to try and overcome obstacles and conquer this crisis," said Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi. "The Palestinians cannot achieve peace without being unified."

Arafat faced off against Hamas

after Israel demanded that he crack down on militants responsible for attacks that left 32 Israelis dead in October and November alone.

Hamas and the more extremist Islamic Jihad oppose the peace accord, but Arafat can't afford to ignore the grass-roots support for the militant groups, especially among the poor, and is trying to woo them into participating in his self-rule government.

"The meeting was very frank, serious, warm and friendly, and could pave the way for a real reconciliation and a real dialogue between the PLO and Hamas," Tibi said.

Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darwish, head of the Israeli Islamic Movement, who also served as a mediator, called the meeting "a gate of hope for the Palestinians."

Darwish said that Hamas no longer rejected an Arafat-appointed judiciary probe into the November 18 violence and had agreed to drop accusations blaming the Palestinian Authority for the clashes until investigators published their results.

"It was a warm and fruitful meeting between myself and my brother, and what we have agreed on is good for both sides," Zahar said. Tibi said the nine-member committee, that includes Hamas and PLO officials, as well as two Israeli Arabs, was scheduled to meet last night.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of

ABE KOHN

in Louisville, Kentucky

He is survived by his wife, Helen, his children, Murrel and Irit Kohn of Jerusalem, Susan and Max E. Goldberg, Indianapolis and grandchildren



The Jewish Agency for Israel
Development and Settlement Department

We mourn the untimely passing of

MIRIAM GAFNI

Ronit Dolev, General Manager
and the staff of the department.



The Jewish Agency for Israel
To Judge Abe Gafni and his family

Our deepest condolences
on the untimely passing of

MIRIAM GAFNI

Yehiel Leket, Chairman of the Board
and the entire staff

With sorrow we announce the death on December 2, of

ANNA GRACE VESTER LIND

Funeral service at 1:30 p.m. today at St. Georges Cathedral and afterwards at the American Colony Cemetery Mount Scopus.

Instead of flowers please make a donation to the Spafford Children's Center to which she dedicated so many years of her life.

Peter and Georgette Lind
Anton Lind and family

American Colony
Spafford Children's Center

The management and staff
of the American Colony Hotel
express their warm sympathy with the family of

ANNA GRACE VESTER LIND

who died on December 2.

The Management and staff
of the American Colony Hotel

Armed Palestinian caught inside Green Line

DAVID RUDGE

A PALESTINIAN armed with a loaded pistol who crossed the Green Line illegally was caught in Umm el-Fahm early yesterday morning.

Another man who was with him managed to escape and is still being sought by police.

The suspect, who had been jailed in the past for two life terms for murdering collaborators in the territories, was released under the agreement with the PLO on condition he remain in Jericho.

He also had ID papers which

had been stolen from an Israeli citizen two years ago.

Chief Superintendent Reuven Ariav, deputy commander of the Ha'amakim Police District, said it was unclear what the suspects had intended to do in Israel.

He noted that the man in custody, a resident of Silet al-Haratin in Samaria, was not cooperating with the police.

Police patrolling in Umm el-Fahm spotted two men walking in

the rain and asked them to identify themselves.

One produced an ID card, but the other said he did not have one and started running away.

Police chased him for over 600 meters and despite the rain and darkness, managed to arrest him.

On the way back, they found a loaded pistol and an ID card which he had apparently thrown away while trying to flee.

The other suspect took advantage of the distraction to make good his escape.

Cabinet to discuss ICL sale

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE cabinet privatization committee will discuss today the arrangements to transfer the management authority over Israel Chemicals (ICL) to the group of private investors who will purchase a controlling stake in the company.

The government will retain a "golden share" to protect national

interests and the natural resources the company exploits.

Should the investors sell control of ICL in the future, the government will have to approve the transfer. At present, four groups, consisting of local and foreign investors, are bidding for a 24.9 percent controlling share in the firm.

Panel to study privatization

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE proposal to privatize state companies by distributing shares to the public came a step closer to realization on Friday, when Finance Minister Avraham Shohat announced that he will appoint a committee to review that option.

The plan has been pushed by Securities Authority Chairman Arye Mintkevitsh for several years, as a means to speed up the sale of government firms.

Under the proposal, every citizen would receive free vouchers for the purchase of state-owned companies and banks, which could be redeemed for shares at a substantially discounted price.

Shohat will appoint the committee this week and will task it to issue recommendations within a month.

The government's privatization plans suffered this year due to the stock market slump. As a result, there were almost no public issues, and instead the government focused exclusively on selling controlling stakes to private investors.



Israel Museum

Deeply mourns the passing of

JOSEPH H. HAYZEN

Founder of the American friends of the Israel Museum.

Teddy Kollek, chairman of the board
Dr. Martin Weyl, director.

With deep sorrow we announce the sudden passing of our dear

ARTHUR FRIEDLANDER

For funeral arrangements, please contact:
02-891863 or 02-813838

Mourning by:
his wife Sheila,
daughter Lea and family,
brother Max and family.

NEWS IN BRIEFS

'Achille Lauro' Israelis were armed guards

Four Israelis picked up from the Achille Lauro and then transferred from the ship which rescued them because it was headed for an Arab League state were armed security officers, crewmembers said yesterday.

"They were members of an anti-terrorist detail which the Achille Lauro hired after it was hijacked by Palestinian guerrillas in 1985," a crew member told Reuters.

Police detain Orient House guards

Two Orient House guards were detained by police yesterday for carrying ID cards identifying them as guards at the building, which serves as the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem police spokesman said police would confer with the District Attorney's Office this week to determine whether possession of the ID cards was a punishable offense. The cards were taken from the two guards, who were released after interrogation.

J'lem boy dies after gas fume inhalation

The seven-year-old boy seriously injured by gas fume inhalation at his home in Jerusalem last week died yesterday at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The police spokesman said last night that an investigation was underway to determine whether negligence caused the deadly fumes to leak from the family's gas heater.

The boy, David Ashush, was fatally injured, and his two-year-old brother and their babysitter were moderately injured by the fumes last Tuesday night.

Begin asks A-G to probe Rabin

Likud MK Benny Begin has asked Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to investigate whether Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was involved in Shimon Sheves's decision to approach then Police Commissioner Ya'acov Teimer regarding the Aryeh Deri case. A spokesman from Rabin's office said last night that Rabin had no connection with the case and Begin was acting solely out of political considerations.

LIBI THE FUND FOR STRENGTHENING ISRAEL'S DEFENCE

Libi Fund Marks 15 Years of Activity

To celebrate its 15th anniversary, Libi is holding a "direct mail" national fundraising campaign this Hanukkah. This week, a letter containing appeals for donations will be sent to all of Israel's businesses, companies and self-employed. A stamped, addressed envelope will be enclosed with the letter.

The Libi Fund appeals to all those receiving this letter to open their hearts and give generously to the fund.

The Libi Fund extends heartfelt thanks to the Golden Pages, who contributed its data base, and to Discount Bank, who sponsored the campaign.

We wish all of Israel a Happy Hanukkah.

All proceeds go to support LIBI's activities.
For further details, call

Tel. 03-6968206, 03-6975183, 03-695610.

Crewmen applaud 'Achille Lauro' passengers

News agencies
DJBOUTI

FILIPINO seamen applauded as survivors of the *Achille Lauro* arrived safely in the Red Sea port yesterday, ending the getaway cruise that turned into a holiday in hell.

Some passengers from the luckless Italian liner had to be helped down the gangplank of the Liberian-registered cargo ship *Bardu* which rescued them from shark-infested waters off Somalia.

The first couple off the ship were Barbara and Basil Swanson of Johannesburg, both in their seventies and looking drawn.

Filipino seamen from the *Bardu* in hard hats and with tattoos on their arms, clapped as the Swansons were escorted on to land.

Two Israeli couples from Haifa on the *Bardu* were transferred to another vessel at sea as they were unsure of their reception in Djibouti, an Arab League member with no diplomatic relations with their country.

Djibouti authorities had said the Israelis would be as welcome as anyone else because it was a humanitarian issue.

The charred hull of the \$30-million *Achille Lauro* sank on Friday about 250 km off the barren Somali coast.

"The worst part was getting into the rafts," said Basil Swanson. He said the ship was listing so some lifeboats had to be perilously slipped over the ship's side into the water.

The first to land was South African Lee Foggitt, a 21-year-old crewman on the *Achille Lauro* and a Johannesburg resident.

Asked what his job was on the big-bulld liner, the lanky, blonde youngster said: "I was a host and now a lifesaver."

Like the other crew members he said the *Achille Lauro* crew and the *Bardu* rescuers did their jobs perfectly during the evacuation and transfer of passengers to rescue ships on Thursday. "The passengers, they're as strong as ox," he said.

Hans and Marianne Hemmerich, an elderly German couple, said they survived by good luck.

"We had to rush out and did not have enough time to pick up our belongings. There was smoke. It was terrible," said Hans, who added however that there was no pan-

ic and the crew behaved perfectly.

Two US navy ships and at least two other cargo ships were expected to arrive in Djibouti today with about 300 survivors and officials said some would have to stay at the large French army garrison because of a shortage of hotel rooms.

US Army Major Peter Aubrey was full of praise for the cooperation of authorities in Djibouti, itself still smarting from the effects of floods last month which killed about 100 people and left thousands homeless.

In the Philippines, it was revealed yesterday that most of the 608 passengers aboard the *Cebu City* were sleeping when a freighter slammed into the ferry Friday in Manila Bay. The ferry sank a half hour later, a one-meter hole in the lower deck.

At least 34 people drowned. Divers discovered more bodies in the ship, lying under 30 meters of water, but could not get to them before the search for the more than 100 people still missing was called off for the night.

"Suddenly we heard a crash," Erwin Maravilla said. "I grabbed my two children, but when the ferry sank we were sucked under the water with it. A piece of metal hit my arm, and I lost hold of my two kids."

His wife also was among the missing.

Ships in the area plucked 451 people from the sea, many coated with the diesel oil disgorged as the ferry sank. The freighter, the Singapore-registered *Kota Suria*, joined in the rescue effort, its bow badly bent.

Survivors complained the crew did little to save people. The radio room may have been severely damaged because the distress signals came from other ships.

The collision occurred before dawn near the town of Rosario, about 55 km southwest of Manila.

The captain and his mates were in the bridge, the control section of the ferry, said one crewman, Jacob Cabatuan. They were among the missing.

The cause of the accident, which occurred in calm seas under clear night skies, is under investigation. The company that owns the ferry said it was rammed.

Another trial requested for Berlusconi's brother

MILAN (Reuters) - Italian prosecutors yesterday sought to try the brother of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi for alleged corruption, as a law blazed between the Milan anti-graft magistrates and the government.

Judicial sources said Paolo Berlusconi, the prime minister's business associate and younger brother, was among 120 people they wanted to try for alleged corruption for building work on the outskirts of Milan.

A senior judge will now have to rule if there is enough evidence to try the defendants and set a date for a hearing.

If permission is granted, it would be another embarrassment for Silvio Berlusconi, who was formally warned 10 days ago that he as well was under investigation for alleged corruption.

Both Berlusconi brothers have denied any wrongdoing.

The prime minister is under investigation with his brother in one case over alleged bribes paid to tax police in return for favorable audits.

In the latest affair, magistrates accuse Paolo, as head of the fam-

ily's Edinord building group, of being responsible for bribes paid to local politicians to obtain planning permission for land on the outskirts of Milan.

Building magnate Salvatore Ligresti, one of the first big names to be remanded in custody as part of Italy's huge graft scandal, could also be in the dock if the request is granted.

Giampiero Cantoni, former chairman of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, who stepped down earlier this year following accusations of his involvement, was also among the 120.

The prosecutors' request alleges that Paolo Berlusconi was involved in the graft from 1985 until just before his brother's victory at general elections after a lightning campaign.

The application was lodged by three lesser-known Milan investigating magistrates who are not part of the elite pool of "Clean Hands" anti-corruption prosecutors whose probes unleashed a scandal that swept Italy's political old guard from power.

Serbs fail on pledge to free hostages

KURT SCHORK
SARAJEVO

HUNDREDS of UN peacekeepers remained hostages of Bosnian Serbs yesterday as "human shields" against possible NATO air strikes, despite a Serb promise they would be released immediately.

There was also no word that a Serb blockade on UN aid convoys to besieged Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia had been lifted following a similar promise by Bosnian Serb leaders during talks with UN envoy Yasushi Akashi.

The latest twist in the struggle between the Serbs and the peacekeepers came as United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali revealed that contingency planning with NATO for a possible pull-out of UN forces from Bosnia was well under way.

Akashi said after talks with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that the Serbs had agreed to release the peacekeepers detained as human shields after NATO air strikes two weeks ago, and allow the convoys to roll.

However as darkness fell on Bosnia there was no sign of movement apart from an unconfirmed report that a UN convoy to resupply Bangladeshi troops in the north-west Bihac enclave was on the road.

Akashi told journalists as he was leaving Sarajevo yesterday that "it usually takes 12 hours or 24 hours for these promises to take effect on the ground."

He left after fruitless efforts to try to persuade the Serbs to accept a Bosnia-wide cease-fire. The Muslim-led Bosnian government agreed to a limited three-month truce.

Akashi's spokesman Thant Myint-U said there was a "strong possibility" of another round of talks with both sides, possibly as early as today.

Boutros-Ghali said in Geneva he had been told by Russia, Britain, France, Spain and Canada that they would withdraw their



A Bosnian rebel Muslim soldier looks toward government positions in Velika Kladusa, 40 km. north of Bihac, on Friday. (AP)

UN troops if the Security Council voted to lift an international arms embargo in favor of the Bosnian government.

He said it had been agreed at a meeting in Geneva last June with his military commanders in the region to prepare for such an eventuality. "I can tell you that the project is quite advanced and has been agreed with NATO," he added.

The United States has in the past urged lifting the embargo to enable Bosnian government forces to acquire arms, arguing

that the Serbs have an advantage because they inherited heavy weapons from the former federal Yugoslav army.

But a formal end to the embargo would need the support of the United States' allies, who fear it would put their troops in serious danger. Russia has indicated it would veto any such move by the Security Council.

Russia used its veto on Friday to block a draft UN resolution aimed at stopping fuel getting to rebel Serbs, putting international peace efforts under renewed strain.

The veto, rarely used since the end of the Cold War, came in a vote late on Friday on the draft Security Council resolution that would have stopped fuel from Serbia crossing Serb-held areas of Croatia and Bosnia without the permission of their governments.

Diplomats at UN headquarters in New York said Russia, by taking a stand on a relatively minor matter, appeared to be trying to demonstrate its independence and traditional friendship for the Serbs without jeopardizing relations with other members of a five-na-

tion "contact group" trying to end the war.

The group now appears to be trying to persuade the Serbs to accept 49 percent of Bosnia - they currently hold 70 percent - by offering them the prospect of a confederation with Serbia proper.

Foreign ministers of the contact group ended a meeting in Brussels by reaffirming the need for a negotiated settlement, but hinted at the possibility of a link to Serbia similar to that of Bosnia's Croat-Muslim alliance with Croatia. (Reuters)

Major warns party could lose vote

LONDON (Reuters) - Prime Minister John Major has warned his leading Conservative Party to unite or face defeat at the next general election.

His rebuke came just three days after a damaging split in the party over Europe and ahead of a parliamentary vote next week which could open new fissures over taxing domestic fuel.

Major told the annual Conservative Women's Conference in west London that the next election, due by mid-1997, would be fought against the background of strong economic recovery.

But he said this would not guarantee the Conservatives would continue a marathon term in office which began in 1979. Departing from his prepared text, Major told the conference: "No one should be so blithe as to assume the economy alone will win the next general election."

He said what was required was "the Conservative Party fighting the same fight, at the same time, for the same cause and against the same enemy," adding: "Then we shall win."

Earlier this week, eight legislators were expelled from the parliamentary party for refusing to back the government over a bill to boost Britain's contributions to the European Union.

A ninth resigned in protest at the strong-arm tactics used by the government to push the bill through.

On Tuesday the opposition Labor Party will seek to reopen its attack on plans to more than double value-added tax (VAT) on domestic fuel - plans which many Conservatives are uneasy about because of the effect on pensioners and the poor.

Heidi Fleiss convicted of supplying call girls to undercover police

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Heidi Fleiss, who once boasted that her prostitution ring catered to the "top one percent" of Hollywood's elite, has been convicted of providing high-price call girls to undercover police officers.

After four days of deliberations, a jury found the 28-year-old pediatrician's daughter guilty on three of five pandering charges.

The seven-man, five-woman jury deadlocked on the two other counts, and acquitted her of supplying cocaine to an undercover police officer.

Fleiss was visibly unhappy with the outcome. She slammed her

hands on the defense table and laid down her head as the guilty verdicts were read. Her father, seated behind her in the front row of the courtroom, hung his head.

Fleiss faces a minimum of three years, and up to eight years and eight months in prison. A sentencing hearing was set for Jan. 20.

Fleiss and her father, Paul, await a second trial in January on federal charges they laundered profits from the call-girl ring.

Prosecutor Alan Carter said he was pleased with the verdict. The district attorney's office hadn't immediately decided whether to retry Fleiss on the two deadlocked

counts. Fleiss posted the \$75,000 bail set by Superior Court Judge Judith L. Champagne.

Much of the six-day trial focused on police conduct, with Fleiss' attorneys insisting she was entrapped.

Juror Nancy Reyes, 24, said Fleiss was acquitted on the cocaine charge and two of the pandering counts because the jury felt

the police acted unethically. "I personally feel the police went beyond reasonable conduct," she said. "They're supposed to follow restrained steps."

Fleiss's so-called "black book" of clients was never made public; the judge ruled the names of her customers were irrelevant.

Fleiss was captured on video

and audio tapes during a Beverly Hills sting last year and charged with offering undercover police officers four women for prostitution.

Two of the women testified under immunity that they were to give Fleiss 40 percent of their \$1,500 fees. One woman also testified she charged up to \$10,000 for a night of sex.

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Bomb kills one at Kurdish daily's office

ALIZA MARCUS
ISTANBUL

EXPLOSIONS yesterday morning ripped through three offices of Turkey's leading pro-Kurdish daily, killing one person and wounding at least 22.

The biggest blast occurred at *Ozgur Ulke's* main offices in Istanbul's Kumkapi district, completely gutting the four-story building and leaving it a smoldering mess of twisted metal and collapsed concrete. All the casualties occurred there.

Two other explosions destroyed the paper's smaller Ankara office and damaged a separate Istanbul bureau.

Police said two of the wounded were firemen who struggled for hours at the paper's editorial offices to put out the fires from the explosion, which sent bricks and metal flying across the street and blew out windows in nearby buildings.

Police at the daily's central offices, surrounded by the wrecks of burned out cars, said they did not have any leads.

But *Ozgur Ulke* journalists blamed the government, saying it was out to silence them because of their coverage of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) insurgency in the southeast. More than 13,000 people have died in 10 years of fighting.

PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan writes a regular column for the paper.

"We have no doubt it was the state that did this because they have accused us of being separatists who want to destroy Turkey and this is a natural outcome of their attempts to silence us," said Baki Karadeniz, *Ozgur Ulke's* editor.

"We're not even amazed that this occurred," he said.

But Karadeniz promised today's edition would appear on

schedule. "The only thing that stops us is death."

The explosions occurred amid an already heated atmosphere.

On December 8 Ankara Security Court is set to announce a verdict in the trial of eight Kurdish members of parliament, facing possible death sentences on treason charges for alleged ties to the PKK.

None has been charged with an act of violence.

In eastern Tunceli province, a three-month sweep by security forces has stripped PKK rebels of food and shelter.

Turkish commanders say hundreds of guerrillas have been killed.

Local villagers, largely Kurds, have complained the army's tactics include the torching of their remote settlements. Thousands are now living in temporary shelters as the region's fierce winter sets in.

The apparently coordinated blasts — all took place at approximately 3:30 am — marked only the latest hardship for Turkey's pro-Kurdish press.

Ozgur Ulke's correspondents complain widely of police harassment, and some have been detained for questioning. Nine journalists from *Ozgur Gundem*, an earlier publication, have died in unexplained circumstances.

Turkish law makes it a crime to write or say anything aimed at "damaging the indivisible unity of the state" and the ban has been used against journalists, writers and intellectuals, both Turkish and Kurdish.

Anyone speaking out in favor of an independent Kurdish state or some sort of federation can be charged with separatist activity.

(Reuters)



Emergency medical workers treat people injured in a stampede at a nightclub in Elizabeth, NJ early yesterday morning. (AP)

4 die in New Jersey nightclub stampede

ELIZABETH, N.J. (AP) — Hundreds of young partiers fleeing a bottle-and chair-throwing brawl trampled each other in a stairwell yesterday, crushing three men and a 13-year-old girl to death and injuring 13 people.

"People are screaming, everybody's trying to get out through everybody and on top of everybody," said Franz Vargas, manager of the company that rented the club for a private party.

Police and firemen found people "piled four and five on top of each other" in the front stairway, police Lt. Mark Kurdyla said. "Two hundred or 300 are trying to get out at the same time — that's not going to happen."

Police had to pull people out of the stairway to get to the injured. At least 13 people were taken to hospitals.

The dead included an 18-year-old man, two men in their early 20s, and a 13-year-old girl. Most of the party-goers were in their late teens or early 20s, Vargas had rented the club

for the party, and 200 invitations were distributed, mainly to students at Elizabeth High School.

The bar was operated by the club, and it was the club's responsibility to proof customers buying liquor, Vargas said.

Vargas, manager of Bouncing Babies Productions, said the stampede began after a dance-floor scuffle, when guards escorted several people down the stairs and outside and a crowd followed.

"Things got out of hand outside," Vargas said. "As it got worse outside, we started pushing the crowd back inside the hall."

Inside, people on a third-floor interior balcony were throwing bottles and chairs onto the dance floor below, those inside were trying to escape the barrage, and Vargas' 10 guards and 10 other staffers weren't able to control the crowd, he said.

No more than 300 people were admitted to

the party, Vargas said. Police were checking to see if the crowd exceeded the club's occupancy limit.

□ In Philadelphia, a taxi plunged through the glass wall of a crowded nightclub in the early hours yesterday injuring at least 39 people.

The cab exploded through the front of the private after-hours club, pinning some patrons to the ground when it came to a stop, police said.

"There was a loud boom, and then the cab was in the room," one woman said. "There was glass everywhere. It knocked down everything in its path."

When the cab came to rest on the dance floor, patrons tipped it over to free people trapped beneath it. Two passengers were taken from the taxi.

Injuries ranged from severe to minor, police said. The accident is under investigation.

Britons pay shotgun pensioner's bill

LONDON 2 (Reuters) — Outraged Britons jammed the switchboard of a local town hall yesterday as they offered to pay damages awarded against a pensioner who blasted a would-be burglar with a shotgun.

On Thursday a court ordered 82-year-old Ted Newbery to pay Mark Revill £4,033 in damages for the wounds he received in 1988. Newbery had opened fire as Revill tried to break into the shed on the pensioner's allotment garden.

Revill, who was hit by 50 pellets, was also ordered to pay

Newbery £400 for shock and distress.

The mayor of Erewash-borough council in central England, where Newbery lives, immediately launched an appeal to raise the money.

A council official said yesterday the response had been tremendous. "I don't think there'll be any problem paying off the bill," she said. Crime is the number one concern among many Britons worried by an apparent breakdown in law and order.

Britain's popular *Sun* newspaper attacked the damages award

on its front page under the headline "Shameful".

"Whatever the learned judge may think — and whatever his dusty law books may tell him — this is a travesty of justice," the *Sun* said.

In the six years since the shooting incident, Newbery has spent each night in the allotment shed, guarding his vegetables.

"I am more than overwhelmed. Words cannot express it. I didn't think people would go to such trouble," he said when hearing of the response to the mayor's appeal.

Marines clash with crew of Iraqi ship

DUBAI (Reuters) — Helicopter-borne US Marines boarded an Iraqi ship in the Gulf using what a US spokesman termed "minimum force necessary" but provoking angry charges of brutality from Baghdad.

The incident occurred Friday when two Iraqi vessels were spotted in the northern Gulf, where the United States is in charge of inspecting ships suspected of transporting Iraqi oil in violation of UN sanctions.

According to a US Navy spokesman the boarding occurred after the Iraqi crew refused to co-

operate with a board-and-search operation authorized by the United Nations under sanctions imposed as a result of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"They failed to respond to bridge-to-bridge radio calls... So we sent a helicopter to investigate and again they failed to respond."

When a helicopter team boarded the ship one of the 16-man crew "attacked by hand the first member of our team to board the tanker," said the US spokesman, stressing that the incident occurred in interna-

tional waters.

He said the US soldier hit the crew member with his rifle butt in the chest and placed flexible cuffs on him.

"No shots were fired. Minimum force necessary was used," said the spokesman, adding that the crewman was not injured and was later seen by a US medical team.

A total of 10 US soldiers boarded the vessel and placed cuffs on three other uncooperative crew members "to keep them in line," he added.

According to the Iraqi version,

the Marines, guns blazing, boarded two Iraqi vessels and beat up crew members while interfering with them on the nature of their cargo and the number of crewmen on board.

"This unjustified military aggression is a violation of the rules and conventions of international law and the UN charter and of the (1991 Gulf War) cease-fire and confirms America's insistence on seizing any opportunity to attack Iraq and violate the sanctity of its waters, soil and air space," an official spokesman said in a communique.

Clinton wins first test with Republicans, future not as bright

PRESIDENT Clinton has passed his first test in dealing with the newly empowered Republican leaders of Congress, winning passage of the GATT trade pact, but the outcome offers few signs of future harmony.

"Let's make the GATT vote, the first vote of a new era of cooperation," Clinton declared as Republican and Democratic leaders joined him for an outdoor ceremony at the White House on Thursday night, shortly after the vote.

"I urge everyone here to continue to work to keep our country optimistic and hopeful and outward-looking, brave as we march into the future," said Clinton.

Clinton met privately at the White House with Senate Republican leader Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich, who becomes

speaker of the House of Representatives next month.

Although both men helped when it came to the GATT accord, they remain on a collision course with Clinton when it comes to a host of other issues — from domestic policies to foreign affairs.

The Senate overwhelmingly approved the world trade pact by a vote of 76 to 24, providing final congressional approval to legislation that had generated stiff opposition. The House of Representatives approved the pact on Tuesday by a similar wide margin, 288 to 146.

The overwhelming approval of the accord — which eliminates trade barriers around the world — came after intense lobbying by Clinton, who warned that failure to approve the accord negotiated

LAURENCE McQUILLAN
WASHINGTON

under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would cripple the world economy and harm US leadership abroad.

Although the Senate vote officially was the final act of the Democratically-controlled 103rd Congress, the GATT legislation gave Republicans their first chance to flex muscles that have languished for 40 years.

Dole joined Clinton for the White House ceremony — his presence serving as a public reminder that final approval probably would not have come without the Kansas lawmaker's consent.

Dole, who harbors presidential aspirations of his own, raised

questions about the accord and only after the White House made private agreements to meet his concerns did many Senate Republicans back the pact.

"Mr. President, I think it goes without saying that this is bipartisanship," Dole said of the congressional action. "... It was all about trade, all about the future, all about America, and all about our place in the world."

For Clinton, the political benefits of approving GATT rest more in what did not happen than in what did. A defeat, following the sweeping Republican wins in last month's elections, would have doomed his credibility.

The political benefits of the vote are limited for Clinton. The GATT accord, while generating immense interest around the

world, is far more important to America's leaders than it is to its everyday citizens.

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll taken before the Senate vote found that 63 percent of Americans did not know enough about the agreement to have an opinion on it. Only 23 percent favored the pact, while 14 percent opposed it.

The victory that White House officials were celebrating, therefore, carries limited benefits for Clinton — who was elected by less than a majority of the votes cast in a three-way race.

He now faces the challenge of trying to show he can be an effective president even though Republicans control Congress. Clinton won the battle over GATT, but the political wars are far from over. (Reuters)

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Play it again – and make me a copy

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

TWO dozen Vietnamese stick insects are part of a new exhibition at Jerusalem's Bloomfield Science Museum.

So are reproductions of Andy Warhol's Campbell's soup cans and Marilyn Monroe, and a tower of Hasharon district phone books piled like a DNA molecule from floor to ceiling.

What can these and dozens of other items have in common? They are copies.

Called "Play it Again: Copying in Science and Art," the exhibition was completely designed and built by the museum staff with some outside help and will be on view for a year.

The stick insects – slow-moving creatures that look as if they were constructed from toothpicks – reproduce without the assistance of any males. They accomplish this amazing feat by cloning themselves in a kind of virgin birth.

Museum director Prof. Peter Hillman explains that the odd insects apparently had difficulty finding mates in the jungle, so they evolved a way of cloning themselves without males.

Warhol's works were popular because they used familiar objects and famous faces, repeating them and altering each copy.

The phone books, piled to look like a double helix, contain the same amount of "information" found in a single DNA molecule, says Hillman. These are copied whenever a new being is conceived, or when cells divide.

The museum director says it took nine months to plan and set up the new exhibition, which cost \$200,000. This relatively low cost for an entirely new display was possible because almost all of the work was done by staff in the museum's workshops, he says.

Hanan De Lange of the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design's industrial design department was brought in for overall design, and Diana Churges of Tel Aviv was the graphic designer.

THE SUBJECT matter, understandable to children from age six, is divided among four variations on the theme "copies." The first is the biological mechanism of copying: the unusual Vietnamese bugs, as well as ears of Indian corn and dried sunflowers, with their multiple seeds to ensure optimal survival.

Then, there is a hornet's nest (the most housing from the least).

Early-warning test for albinism

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

THE genetic mutations that produce albinos can now be detected in the 10th week of pregnancy instead of the 22nd week, when doctors take a biopsy from the scalp of the fetus and risk the miscarriage of a healthy fetus.

The technique was used in recent weeks by doctors in Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital. Hospital officials claim it was the first time it has been used anywhere in the world.

Dr. Zippori Falik, a physician who specializes in medical genetics, diagnosed the mutation in the fetus of a Christian Arab couple – first cousins – from the north who already had a three-year-old albino son.

In the hospital's molecular-genetics lab, Falik detected the family's unique mutation for albinism from a blood test of both parents. (All the mutations found so far in albinism have been one of a kind.) A chorionic villi sample – CVS, in which tissue from the chorion sheath covering the fetus is taken – showed that the fetus was an albino. The parents decided against abortion.

Another case involved a man from a Moroccan-Jewish family with a long history of albinism. Although he was found to carry the defective gene, this mutation was not found in the fetus.

His wife delivered a healthy baby girl. Had scalp samples been removed from the fetus in the 22nd week, there would have been a five-percent risk of miscarriage.

Albinism, which occurs in one in 10,000 fetuses, causes hair and skin to be white and pupils to be a pinkish color. It often results in blindness and other vision problems, and albinos are highly susceptible to skin cancer because they lack protective melanin pigment. The lack of synthesis of pigment in an albino is the result of malfunctioning of a certain enzyme.

Falik says there are many different mutations that can cause albinism. In each case, the exact one has to be identified in the parents; the CVS can be used early to determine whether it has been passed on to the fetus.

The Bnai Zion team carried out the technique in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin's molecular-genetics lab, headed by Prof. Richard Spritz.



To demonstrate sound production, a rubber bladder in a glass cylinder bounces balls of varying sizes.

(Scoop 80)

material") and a real fly's eye (visible through a microscope, showing the insect's multiple lenses that allow it to look in many directions simultaneously).

Rock crystals that multiply under the right conditions and fossils – copies of dead plant or animal matter – round out the biological section.

Next, there is industrial production, which allowed modern societies to make many copies of an endless variety of consumer products. A robot that cuts metal was lent by ORT, and a machine that wraps candies was provided by Elite.

INFORMATION, especially in our age, can be copied an infinite number of times by computer.

Visitors to the exhibition are invited to interact with PCs. One produces fractals – patterns that look the same through a microscope, on a television, or through a telescope. The

computer program shows how these beautiful patterns – whose widespread appearance in nature was discovered only in the Sixties by Benoit Mandelbrot – are created.

Another terminal allows visitors to create repeated patterns, such as those seen in tiles in old Arab houses – from a bank of possible designs, while a third lets them play the "Game of Life," a computer game in which rules for the creation and destruction of an individual are reduced to four basic laws.

But reproducible information existed long before the computer. The exhibition includes a number of museum pieces – an early gramophone, dating back to 1905, which "copies" sounds on a rotating wax cylinder; an 1882 calligraph machine, which predates the typewriter; and an old stencil machine.

Visitors press a button to speak into a reel-to-reel tape recorder; in a moment, they hear a copy of their own voice, but speeded up or slowed down at will. A four-sided plexiglass column gives analogue (clocklike) or digital (numerical) displays when visitors blow into a hole to show humidity, take their finger temperature, measure the volume of their voices or the brightness of the light.

Make a crude copy of your hand by putting it on a sensor panel made up of photoelectric cells. The resulting image appears in pixel-like red boxes on the opposite wall. This simple device illustrates how a TV or newspaper picture is produced.

There is also a dual-drum device connected by a rope that, in a primitive way, explains how a fax works. A real fax connects visitors to artists, photographers and architects around the country who have agreed to receive drawings and messages, at certain times;

these professionals then send back comments.

Esthetics is the fourth copying category; aside from the Warhol designs are large pieces of colored wood in geometrical shapes that children can use to design patterns. One can also learn how a kaleidoscope works using a perfect triangle lined with mirrors on a multicolored base.

Plato, says Hillman, discovered over 2,000 years ago that there exist only five closed solid shapes with all faces equal: the tetrahedron, cube, octahedron, dodecahedron and icosahedron are all made up of equal triangles, squares or pentagons.

All in all, the 24 exhibits are worth a special visit to the science museum, located at Givat Ram between the Hebrew University campus and the Israel Museum. There is no extra charge for admission beyond the normal museum fee.

Building materials that don't pollute

NEW WORLDS

POST SCIENCE REPORTER

POLYESTER resins with low evaporation rates have been developed by the Machteshim Co., which claims they are nonpolluting.

These raw materials are used largely in the plastics and construction industries.

Polyesters and similar synthetic materials typically release poisonous gases into the atmosphere during the manufacturing process or when burned or heated.

Machteshim managing-director Shlomo Yonas says he expects his company's nonpolluting polyester resins will gradually replace almost all the imported polluting resins used around the country.

Polyesters are increasingly part of lightweight, strong and easy-to-maintain building materials. They are the raw materials for synthetic marble, bathroom furnishings and flooring.

COMPUTERIZED

UNDERSEA VOYAGE

Children will feel they're living underwater when they use the "Undersea Multimedia Encyclopedia" that has just been put on the market in Hebrew by Mirage-Multimedia.

The diskette version needs a hard disk and sound card, while the CD-ROM version requires a CD-ROM drive and sound card. Both need a 386/486 personal computer and a VGA 256-color screen.

Recommended for children aged six and up, the software allows them to see various video films, accompanied by music and spoken Hebrew explanations of the flora and fauna. The user may also get down to the microscopic level, seeing cells and tissues as they would look under a microscope.

The program poses hundreds of questions and provides answers about sea creatures, hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural phenomena while taking the user on an animated voyage through nature.

Bug Multisystem is distributing the software and charging NIS 129 for either version.

The computerized encyclopedia was edited in its original English

version by oceanographer Jacques Cousteau and published in volume form by Random House.

VIRTUAL TELEPHONE

FOR TRANSIENTS

People who don't have a permanent address but still want to get phone messages may soon open a voice-mail line – a new service that Bezek is considering introducing on an experimental basis in a few months.

Called "a telephone without a line" and known abroad as a "virtual telephone," the service is meant for students, soldiers, people in the process of moving and those who have no place to install a permanent phone line.

Bezek is now investigating the technological and economic aspects of the service, and the possibility of offering a similar service for transmission of fax messages. Prices have not been determined.

The public telecommunications company expects that people who place classified ads for apartments, goods or services will want the virtual telephone so as not to be bothered at home.

Customers will be able to order a telephone-without-a-line and receive a special number. Calls made from any place here or abroad will be directed automatically to the "voice mailbox" in Bezek's digital exchanges, and the customer may hear the messages any time by dialing a code number.

ARAB DATA-PROCESSING

EXPERTS TO JERUSALEM

Computer experts from Qatar, Jordan, Oman and other Arab countries will take part for the first time in the annual convention of the Israel Data Processing Association in January. The meeting will take place in Jerusalem's International Convention Center. More than 5,000 experts from Israel and abroad are expected to attend, including Nobel Prize winners and presidents of large companies.

The theme will be "communications without boundaries." Palestinians from the autonomous regions are also expected to participate.



Is it live or is it Memorex? The taped voice is different from its live counterpart. (Gaillard/Jerrison)

Same voice, different sounds

TELL ME WHY

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

WHY does my voice sound so different when I listen to it on a tape recording? David, Tel Aviv.

Dr. David Cohen, head of the ear-nose-and-throat department at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, explains:

When you hear your voice on tape, it reaches your ears by air. When you talk, your voice reaches your ears through the air and even louder through the bones of the skull directly to the hearing cells in the inner ears. The taped voice lacks the modification and amplification of the middle ears and has a different "color" or timbre, produced by the resonators of the throat and nasal passages.

In my high-school science classes, we were always told that eye color is determined by the interaction of the dominant brown gene (B) and the recessive blue gene (b). Thus, BB or Bb produces brown eyes, while bb produces blue eyes. Obviously this doesn't account for a host of other eye colors, such as gray, green or hazel. How do these come about? None of my teachers was ever able to give me an answer. Evelyn, Jerusalem.

Prof. Gideon Bach, human-genetics department, Hadassah-University, explains:

Eye colors other than blue and brown are the result of multiple genes, each of which can be dominant or recessive. The genes passed on by parents interact to produce these less-common pigments. We don't know how many such genes affect eye color.

but we are aware of some of them. Genes connected with blue or brown eyes are usually linked to a specific hair color as well, but those that produce green eyes are not. The genes responsible for giving people green, hazel or gray eyes also generally give the same person a lighter facial complexion than people with brown eyes.

The sun's heat is generated as the result of an atomic, chain-reaction, fusion process, in which hydrogen fuses to create helium. Scientists have been trying to make possible self-sustaining atomic fusion for the generation of cheap, nonpolluting power. The sun has millions of tons of matter that is annihilated, causing it to be a raging inferno. If chain-reaction fusion is accomplished on earth, could the reaction feed on its surroundings and burn up the whole earth? Gerry, Beit Zayit.

Prof. Gerald Horowitz of the Hebrew University's physics department comments:

When hydrogen combines to make helium, this is a transformation of matter, but not annihilation. In principle, there is some slight concern that the conversion of hydrogen in a fusion reactor on earth might have the effect you mention, but the prospects are rather remote. To produce such a reaction in the first place, you need very high

temperatures. Keeping matter together at such temperatures is a problem, and the surroundings will be cooler than the actual confined area in which fusion takes place. While the entire sun burns at such high temperatures that the whole core is affected, in a fusion reaction on earth, the surroundings comprise a very small area.

It seems to me that eggs take less time to boil in Jerusalem than in London. Is this just a product of my imagination? Sybil, Jerusalem.

Dr. Alexander Manes, deputy director of the Meteorological Services in charge of research and development, comments:

You are not imagining it. Jerusalem is more than 800 meters above sea level, while London is much lower. At higher altitudes, the surrounding air pressure is lower, so air bubbles form faster, as there is less resistance from the surrounding air. This makes the water seem to boil faster, but you still have to cook the egg the same amount of time as in London, or your egg in Jerusalem will come out half-boiled.

Have you ever wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, c/o Jerusalem Post Science & Technology Reporter Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, 91000 Jerusalem, or fax it to (02) 389527. Please include your name or initials and place of residence. Calls will not be accepted.

Two games that offer varying degrees of simulated stimulation

ON LINE

DANIEL BAUM

SIMULATION games are as old as computing. Anything which is regulated by a known formula can be simulated by a computer, whether it is the flight of an airplane or the fluctuations of a stock-market portfolio.

Two simulation games have come my way, both enhanced by the graphics and sound available to CD-ROM games. However, in every other respect, they are at opposite ends of the spectrum.

Theme Park, produced by Bullfrog under the Electronic Arts label, and distributed in Israel by Mirage, is, as the name suggests, a theme-park simulation.

You play an entrepreneur who starts out by setting up one such park in England. The idea is to become a multinational company, with stocks sold on the exchange, à la Disney.

The game has three levels of difficulty, as well as settings for the aggressiveness of your competitors.

A stunning introduction to the game shows a family being drawn into a theme park by a representative of National Westminster Bank, believe it or not. This gives the game's sponsor a chance to appear in the game, and gives away the game's English pedigree.

Once the game gets under way, you start off with an empty field, on which you can position rides, fast-food restaurants, toilets and other theme-park essentials. As you become richer, you are offered more sophisticated attractions such as a Big Dipper, a planetarium and a haunted house, and more upmarket attractions such as a steak restaurant and a casino.

You must also employ staff, and make sure they are happy; every now and again they go on strike, and you have to enter wage negotiations. (Here you can also tell the game is not from the US; American companies don't care if their employees are happy!) You are constantly at the mercy of your customers, who have no qualms about telling you what they think about your entertainment extravaganza. At any time you can ask for a survey, in which you may discover, for instance, that everyone is hungry, or that the entrance fee is too high, and you have to react or face financial ruin.

In the more advanced form of the game, you can use your R&D department to improve rides, or train employees, thereby giving you the edge. You can also go public, selling shares on the stock market and giving yourself plenty more headaches to worry about.

Eventually you reach a stage where you can open another park

in another country, and so on.

The game is beautifully presented, and is certainly not a straight business simulation. Everything is full of humor: the kids who are your customers; the mechanic, whose first action upon being given his job is to sit down and have lunch; the wage negotiation scene, which consists of two long arms representing each side's offer. When they meet in the middle, you've struck a deal.

Graphics and sound are excellent throughout the game, most noticeably in the animated close-up you can get of each ride, which is brilliantly ray-traced, like the introduction.

Theme Park is an intelligent, addictive game, reminiscent of the wonderful Sim City series, which will appeal to the more cerebral kind of game player, but which

has enough humor and charm to be attractive to others than just the out-and-out computer geeks.

ABSOLUTELY and miserably at

the... Horde, by Crystal Dynamics. This is a bad game based on a stupid premise. Chauncey saved the king's life and was given some land. The idea of the game is to tend the land and try to make a profit, while fighting off the Horde, a bunch of uncivilized red creatures, whose greatest joy is uprooting your crops and eating your cattle, preferably killing you into the bargain. This they do exactly once a year, after you have spent the whole year planting your crops and feeding your cattle.

This is a classic example of a pathetic game dressed up by CD-ROM technology to look like something special. The game starts with a long video film, starring that awful kid from Growing Pains as Chauncey. From there the progression is all downhill.

THE JERUSALEM POST FORSAKE ME NOT FUND

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Peacekeeping's graveyard

WERE it not so tragic, the Bosnian war could provide ample material for some writer to produce an international farce. An unbelievable one, of course. For who would believe that a squabbling bunch of Balkan militias could make utter fools of all the major powers on earth, destroy the reputation of NATO, the military alliance that saved the Western world from communism, and paralyze the United Nations, which polices international law and order?

A scenario which, if fictional, would be mocked out of any publisher's office is being played out daily on our television screens as hard news. The constant stream of pronouncements by political leaders and the unending flood of useless paper "agreements" and "cease-fires" paraded before journalists for dissemination depends on a level of credulity in the general public which, if it existed, would require most of the Western world to be certified as mentally retarded.

In the midst of the virtual collapse under Serbian assault of the Bihac pocket in northwest Bosnia last week, UN commanders proudly announced that a cease-fire to end the fighting had been agreed. What it amounted to was that the losing Moslem side would stop fighting if the Serbs agreed to stop winning the battle. The Serbian side never even bothered to comment on the alleged "UN-brokered agreement." In line with the old cliché that the UN couldn't talk its way out of a paper bag, the same organization that has been negotiating endless ends to the war has failed even to secure the release of its own people held hostage by the Serbian forces.

Following the Saddam Hussein defensive philosophy of the human shield, the Serbs yesterday again failed to deliver on a pledge to free hundreds of UN troops held for two weeks for just that purpose. Unlike Saddam, however, the Serbs achieved their objective of blackmailing the international peacekeepers by taking hostages. Promised NATO airstrikes, which were supposed to protect the Bihac "safe area," fizzled out, allowing the Serb offensive to continue.

UN envoy Yasushi Akashi got a cast-iron promise from Serb leaders on Friday that the hostages would be freed and that the humanitarian aid convoys would be allowed to roll again. Akashi said - after nothing happened twice - that it usually takes up to 24 hours for these promises to take effect on the ground. This may come as a surprise to anyone who is used to seeing how swiftly promises fail to take effect on the ground. The simple fact is that the United Nations in Bosnia is now in virtually the same situation as the ill-fated Multinational Intervention Force was in Lebanon some 10 years ago - finished, but still babbling positive-thinking nonsense like some

self-improvement fakir on an American morning chat show.

UN forces have no power, credibility, support, respect, or willpower. UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali admitted as much yesterday when he hinted that not only is a pullout being debated, but it is at an advanced stage of planning. The last nail in the UN-NATO operational coffin was hammered soundly home on Friday by Russia when it cast its first Security Council veto since the end of the Cold War. Paradoxically, the importance of the vote was emphasized, not diminished, by the minor issue that the Russians blocked - a proposal to deny fuel crossing to the Serbs through Croatian-Serb territory.

As if the cracks in the Russia-West consensus are not now wide enough to drive several convoys through, the Western alliance too is in tatters to the extent that the multiplicity of spokespersons can't even tell the same story in public. A UN spokesman in Sarajevo said on Friday that the UN had asked NATO to suspend overflights to police the UN-declared "no fly zone" because of concerns over reprisals against the hostage peacekeepers. This was followed by NATO Secretary General Willy Claes publicly denying that allied planes had ceased to enforce the ban on combat aircraft. Yesterday, a token NATO reconnaissance flight brought a sharp warning from the Serbs that retaliation against the UN would be swift if they didn't cease.

Eerie shadows of the fall of Saigon and the American flight are beginning to hover over Sarajevo. The 24,000 UN peacekeepers may even have to fight their way out of this one, facing victorious Serbs and angry, abandoned Moslems. The UN undersecretary general for peacekeeping, Kofi Annan, said in New York that a withdrawal could take up to 145 days, even if the Serbs and Moslems let them go peacefully. And a UN official told the Associated Press after a high-level meeting in Zagreb last week to plan a pullout that any withdrawal was going to be "a real mess."

In the end, it is going to be a long time indeed before the United States, Europe, Russia, the UN, or NATO recover from this humiliating debacle in international relations. The UN has proved it can function only where it is barely required - for 20 years in peaceful Cyprus after first fleeing before the invading Turks in 1974, or sitting on sand dunes in Sinai where the real peace is kept by Israelis and Egyptians. After Bosnia, it is clear that if there is not an Israeli-Arab agreement to enforce peace, or an Irish-British one, or a Greek-Turkish one, or an X-Y one there is no one else who can or will do so in international disputes. Bosnia is the graveyard of the New World Order.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TOMATOES

Sir, - I refer to Rachel Neiman's article of November 18 about tomatoes and in particular the remarks of the family in Jerusalem with whom she spoke.

It's exemplary that the mother, Bracha, wants to give her family all the vitamins they need, but she should be told that tomatoes are not the best source of vitamin C. Peppers have five times more vitamin C than tomatoes, viz. 107 against 23 for tomatoes (per mg.) and are much cheaper. Varied-colored peppers make a lovely salad. All cabbage types, eaten raw, also contain more vitamin C than tomatoes, so one can really live without the latter, at least until they get cheaper.

M. LUBINSKI

Ra'anana.

GOOD ADVICE

Sir, - Turkish Prime Minister Tancan Ciller deserves to be editorially blasted for her cynical hypocrisy. During her visit to Israel, she was most vocal in her support of the PLO and went out of her way to make gestures of friendship both to Arafat and the PLO representation in Jerusalem. Yet, referring to the PKK, the Kurdish guerrilla group, she said: "No one will allow for my country to be divided up." She also called them terrorists and explained that she would not negotiate with terrorists.

One second thought, maybe we should take her advice to heart.

AARON LERNER

Ra'anana.

NO QUICK FIX

Sir, - It becomes increasingly difficult to dismiss Arabs turned into human bombs as simply brain-washed. It tells me we will never have peace in the true sense of the word until both Jew and Arab learn to understand, accept and agree on our respective histories on which our claims, aspirations and sacrifices are based. This is no quick fix, only a slow process of re-education, and I doubt it will affect our present generation. Too many minds have been poisoned.

Our only hope is the current peace process, overburdened, creaking, battered, patched-up and slow-moving as it is, because deep down we know there is no better alternative.

DAVID ROSE

Haifa.

THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

Sir, - I refer to your report of November 17, "Beilin: Arafat should be invited to Auschwitz."

I am one of the few lucky ones who survived Auschwitz and was liberated by the Red Army on January 27, 1945. I think this was an important event not only for those who were liberated, but for the whole world, as this was another step in the destruction of the criminal Nazi regime.

Auschwitz is a reminder of the many dark and destructive forces in human nature which the Nazis were so skillful in using for their own ends. At the 50th anniversary of its liberation, Jews and all decent people throughout the world should remember the millions who suffered and were murdered there. But Yossi Beilin is very naive if he thinks that this event would impress or influence those who deny the Holocaust - deep in their hearts, they probably regret that Hitler did not succeed in killing all Jews.

Neither the Polish government nor Yossi Beilin should try to use this event for political or propaganda purposes. Yasser Arafat should certainly not be invited to the ceremony, as this would be an insult to the memory of all those who suffered and were murdered there.

BERNARD NAIT

Ra'anana.

ENGLISH PHONE BOOK

Sir, - In the past, the English translation of the telephone directory was available through Yellow Page Corporation. I was disappointed to find that they have stopped publishing the English version. They are still publishing Russian and Arabic directories.

I find this hard to understand when taking into account the large number of tourists, multinational firms with foreign workers, new immigrants from English-speaking countries or from Europe and South America who find it easier to read English, and also the diplomatic personnel, all of whom need the use of such a telephone directory.

DR. D KOHN

Haifa.

COEXISTENCE

Sir, - The recent confrontation between the religious and nonreligious on Bar-Ilan Street represents a problem that is not limited to one road in Jerusalem. As a sophomore in high school, I see this same dilemma every single day. Although my school - which is religious - is located next door to a secular high school, and despite the fact that we even share many of the same facilities, there is almost no contact or interaction between the two groups. If anything, there is an invisible wall between us, as the nonreligious think we are fanatics with a superiority complex, and the religious often put the secular kids in the same category as non-Jews.

In contrast, the American community I came from tried hard to mix kids of different religious backgrounds, either through the synagogues, Jewish community centers, youth or sports programs.

If an effort could be made to bring people of different religious levels together, beginning with school-age children, then maybe we would learn to see the others in a less threatening way. Maybe we would grow up to accept each other and at least understand the other side's opinion.

After all, we live together in this same glass house we call Israel. We really shouldn't be throwing stones, should we?

ABBY GOLDBERG

Ra'anana.

JORDANIAN LAW

Sir, - The peace agreement with Jordan enjoyed broad-based parliamentary support and a very favorable public opinion climate.

Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that Jordan's Citizenship Law Number 6, paragraph 3, promulgated on February 4, 1954, stipulates that any person may be a Hashemite subject except a Jew. In addition, Jordan has declared the sale of land to a Jew to be a capital offense, punishable by death.

This is nothing if not antisemitism and it would seem that Jordan was at war not only with Israel but with Jews per se. Should not these laws be repealed and immediately so?

YISRAEL MEDAD

Shiloh.



To know thy neighbor

GUSTAVO D. PEREDNIK

I do not want my children to study Arabic. Yet they may soon be compelled to do so, as Arabic seems set to become a compulsory part of our school curriculum.

Our language-learning priorities should be relevant to our Jewishness (Yiddish), our immigrant-oriented society (Russian), to European culture (French), or the business world (Japanese).

Perhaps no foreign language other than English - which is the second language of most people who do not speak it as their first - should be compulsory.

So why compulsory Arabic?

Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor ("Arabic has a word for it," *The Jerusalem Post*, October 30) complains that Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan speaks Hebrew, while most Israelis can hardly read Arabic signs.

This comparison is misleading, since many Israelis do speak Arabic, while Crown Prince Hassan is a notable exception as a Jordanian Hebrew-speaker. Hebrew-speaking Arabs of other nationalities are rarer still.

In a letter to *The Jerusalem Post* ("People of the Book," November 11), Prof. Mordechai A. Friedman raises the language priority issue in responding to Ben-Dor:

"As the People of the Book, it behooves us first to familiarize ourselves with the classical words of our own tradition." So far, so good.

But he also says: "To better understand our neighbors - and even our own heritage - it would be commendable for more Israelis to learn Arabic and the rudiments of Islam, and I wholeheartedly endorse the appeal that they do so."

Does the physical proximity of our neighbors continue to be a relevant factor? With the speed of current communications, the Turks, Greeks and even Iranians are no less our neighbors than the Egyptians.

Should schoolchildren, there-

fore, be made to study their languages and religions too? The neighborhood criterion is limitless.

Arabic's importance lies mainly in the fact that it is spoken by large numbers of people. But then, shouldn't we be studying Mandarin, Indonesian or Hindi, all spoken by more than 100 million people?

As far as Israeli Arabs are concerned, the converse sounds far more logical: for all practical purposes, surely the more they know Hebrew, the less we need Arabic.

Children should not be forced to learn Arabic in school

Do South Americans have to study Quechua, and most Australians know Aboriginal? "Knowing your neighbors" isn't sufficient reason for making the study of their languages compulsory.

Language is a vehicle of culture. People should be free to study the culture to which they are most attracted. My personal third-language preference, for example, is Spanish.

ONE OF the founders of modern linguistic anthropology was Edward Sapir, an American Jew who gave his name to the Sapir-Whorf thesis of the 1920s.

This theory states that group traits are influenced by language. Thus we could infer that the Germans tend to be rigid and disciplined, partly as a result of their highly structured language.

Language is powerful. It provides people with concepts and ideas which can change the way they think. Language and mental processes interact.

In Hebrew, for instance, the

word "life" is always plural, and there is no verb "to possess." Nor can you conjugate the verb "to be" in the present.

All this may either shape, or have been influenced by, the way Hebrew speakers think.

If every Jew were to learn Hebrew, that could unite our people dispersed over space and time, closing the gap between Israelis, Diaspora Jews and their common heritage and culture.

Arabic is the language of a civilization which embraces no democracy within its 21 states. It is the language of a monolithic, intolerant world, of societies with fanatical inclinations based upon fear, war and oppression of women.

Its study would not bring us closer to a civilization that could enrich pluralistic views.

King Hussein provided us with one example of this during the Washington Declaration ceremony, when he couldn't find a word in Arabic to express the idea of "non-belligerence." ("There's no Arabic word for it," he said.)

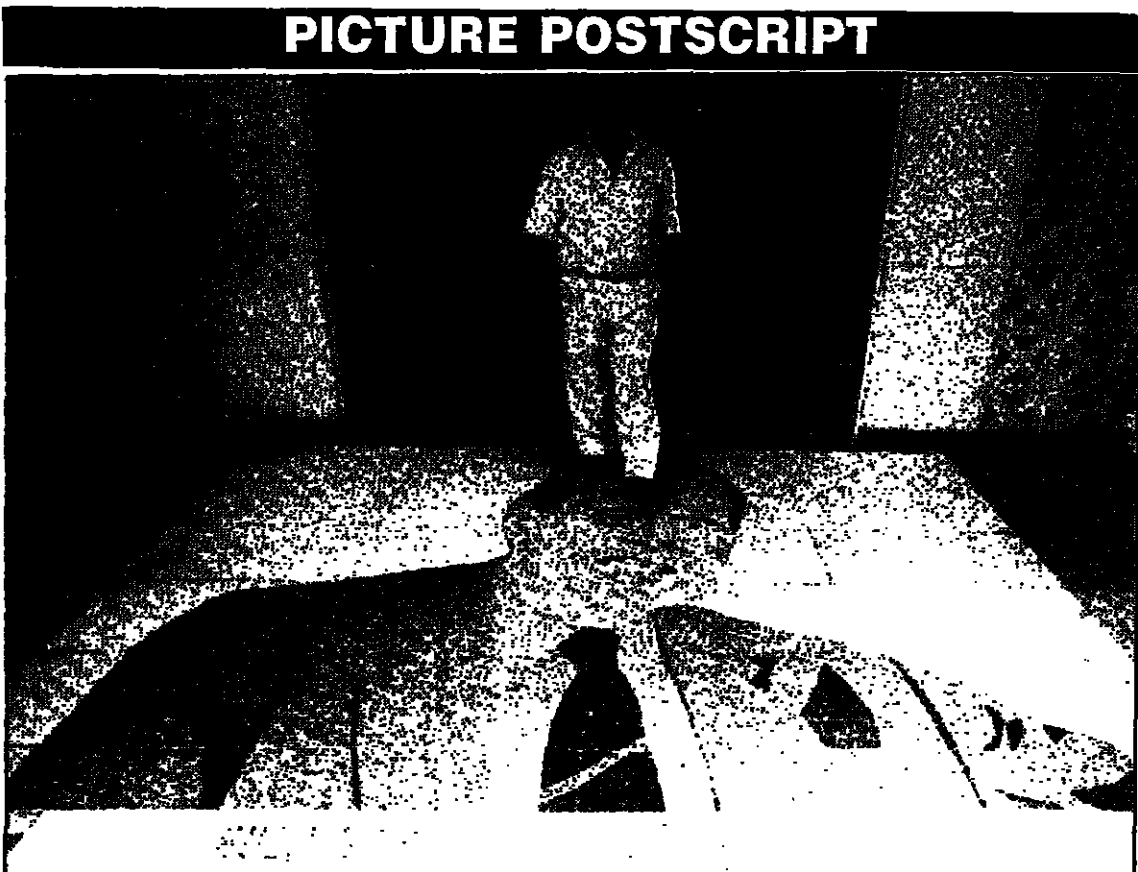
He didn't state the reason for such a blatant lack: Arabic vocabulary related to war expresses either *dar-es-salaam* (the abode of peace) or *dar-el-harb* (the abode of war). The former is the brutal imposition of Islamic "peace," the latter permanent war to subjugate infidels.

The demise of communism set the scene for the peace era, and Israel may indeed gradually become more integrated with its neighbors.

But in preparation, we must buttress our own culture, rather than learn the language of one to which we do not aspire to belong.

No, I do not want my children to study Arabic. Does the state have the right to decide for me?

The author lectures at the Hebrew University's Rothberg School and heads the Institute for Youth Leaders from Abroad.



You won't find too many American tourists stepping into the Al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad. The entrance is bedecked with a giant mosaic of the Devil himself, a smirking George Bush, with the poetic inscription "BUSH IS CRIMINAL." Not subtle, those Iraqis, are they? (AP)

POSTSCRIPTS

WE ARE very proud to announce that the winner of the Miss World Eskimo-Indian Olympics is - an Israeli.

Twenty-year-old Princess Bethany Noel Peter-Raboff, an Athabaskan Indian of Fairbanks, Alaska, was born here because of her father's work. He was a writer and Jewish, originally from New Jersey; her mother is a Gwich'in Athabaskan from Arctic Village.

Princess's cousin, who lives in Jerusalem, gave Postscripts the scoop with a clipping from the *Alaskan Daily News-Miner*. The story explains that the contest is not just a beauty pageant, but a competition to select a young "cultural ambassador" for the Native people of Alaska.

With help from her mother and grandmother, Princess tanned the

caribou skin that was used to make the dress she wore in the contest. She did the beadwork herself, a skill she learned from her grandmother.

Princess, who wants to be a tribal lawyer, was given the name Bethany because of her birth here, in El-Azariya, an Arab village on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Paul Raboff

Two Bills

JOHN CHANCELLOR

IF Bill Clinton has a list of people who are dangerous to his political health, the name at the top should be his own.

The problem with Clinton's presidency is that he is a terrible chief executive. This has been a surprise to some of us who covered his race for the White House.

When he was running in 1992, I thought he was the best campaigner I had seen since John F. Kennedy in 1960. On the stump, he was crisp, articulate and concentrated, a candidate who stuck to his message. He was the skilled manager of a sophisticated staff.

But in the Oval Office, he has allowed his talent to be hidden by inconsistency, indecision and lack of concentration.

There are two Bill Clintons: the skilled communicator who stays focused, and the irresolute politician who tries to straddle the fence.

The president of the American Political Science Association, Charles O. Jones, said in September that Clinton "has yet to form his presidency." One reason is that his image as president is blurred.

Clinton's worst enemy peers out of his mirror

This lack of clarity extends to his philosophy: Is he a moderate or a liberal Democrat?

He campaigned with moderate promises of smaller government and welfare reform. But once elected, he brought forth a liberal agenda that included gays in the military and big-government schemes for health-care reform.

The public has seen him advance and then retreat on issues from Haiti to homosexual rights. Vacillation has become part of his style.

After the Democratic debacle in November, Clinton seemed to embrace a Republican proposal for a constitutional amendment on school prayer. That was on a Tuesday. On Thursday, White House officials said that was not the president's position.

CLINTON'S management style would earn him a failing grade at a Russian business school. Historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. describes the Clinton administration as "government by bull session."

Elizabeth Drew, in *On the Edge*, an examination of the administration, quotes a frustrated official's description of a Clinton White House meeting on health-care policy:

"There were fifty-some people in the room, a very high proportion of them not above kindergarten age. All of them were for the larger (health-care) package. There were cheers and groans and hissing. When you have that many people in the room, senior people aren't going to conduct a real debate in front of the junior people."

In the end, there was no health-care package, because the White House lost the battle to its opponents.

Clinton's personnel problems have made headlines, from the abandonment of Lani Guinier, the top civil-rights official, to the bizarre departure of Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, chosen as defense secretary.

The headlines don't tell the full story: Many staffing mistakes have involved people closest to the president.

In 22 months, Clinton has had two chiefs of staff, four deputy chiefs of staff, two White House counsels, two assistants for congressional liaison and two communications directors. His press secretary is to leave at the end of the year.

To be fair, there are not easy times to be president. Voters pay little attention to the strength of the economy. Clinton's accomplishments on free trade and deficit reduction are ignored by a grouchy electorate. Because of Republican victories, the second half of Clinton's term will be even more difficult.

His unsteady performance has gotten him in deep trouble, but success is not impossible. Clinton is a classic counterpuncher. He is the "comeback kid" who won his party's presidential nomination and the election despite accusations that he had been unfaithful to his wife and disloyal to his country. Yet to prevail in 1996, Bill Clinton will have to find a way to change his presidential style.

He will have to fight the Republicans on one side and his own shortcomings on the other. That's a big job.

Self-renewal is difficult if you're your own worst enemy.

(Newsday)

Cohen and Solomon

Glimmers of History
Improve Coverage of
Native Americans

Time will tell whether it's a journalistic trend or merely a fad. But Cable News Network may have started something in recent weeks with its 20-part series, *Native Americans: The Invisible People*.

During the past month, CNN viewers saw numerous well-researched reports venturing beyond the usual media treatment of Indians to explore what rarely gets much air time — in a word, history.

Most news outlets are loath to recount the realities — recurring betrayals, broken treaties and virtual genocide — inflicted on this continent's native peoples over the course of 500 years.

The customary media approach is akin to assessing what's on stage without considering the play's earlier acts. Typical news items are brief snapshots of current conditions — high rates of unemployment and alcoholism on Indian reservations, or disputes that involve fishing rights or gambling casinos — without historical context.

Television tends to be the worst media offender. But CNN broke away from the pattern with *The Invisible People*. What

the factual background, it was much more likely to seem just.

In another CNN segment, focusing on a land dispute in Nevada, correspondent Bonnie Anderson explained that "the only treaty between the United States and the Western Shoshone was signed here in Ruby Valley in 1863 and it seemed to affirm the Indians' ownership of the land." In modern times, most Western Shoshone people "did not want money for land they did not want to sell."

Reporting from Indiana, CNN chronicled the struggle of Miami Indians to regain tribal recognition from the U.S. government. Across the country, "150 tribes have petitioned the Bureau of Indian Affairs but the odds are against them. Thus far fewer than a dozen have been recognized."

And, near the Grand Canyon, CNN spotlighted an example of how lucrative projects — in this case uranium mining — can run roughshod over Indian spiritual rights. A woman who is part of the Havasupai tribe said, "It's sacrilegious to go build a mine or make a profit off of an area which people respect and

In a poignant moment, a Native American activist commented: "I don't believe that if these were Christian sites important to mainline religions that we would see them being bulldozed without any legal protection."

distinguished the network's special reports was attention to the content of treaties.

"When a government makes an agreement with another nation, that government is expected to abide by the terms of the agreement," said a CNN anchor, introducing one segment. "But many Native American nations are struggling to uphold rights granted in treaties with the United States."

Correspondent Stephen Frazier explained that more than 150 years ago, a pact with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwa Indians "reserved the right to gather and hunt and fish on the land they were giving up. Otherwise, they said, they would starve."

Although the U.S. government signed the treaty, "when Minnesota became a state it deliberately did not recognize any treaty privileges of Indians."

The CNN story gave coverage to foes of Indian rights, like the Minneapolis businessman who blasted Indian activism as "political revisionism of history." But the report also provided a platform for defenders of Indian treaty rights.

The Mille Lacs won their court case last summer. And, correspondent Frazier concluded, "157 years after the Mille Lacs made a treaty with the United States, it is still valid. It is still the law of the land. It must still be respected."

Without historical explanation, the Mille Lacs' court victory — retaining special hunting and fishing rights — might have seemed unfair to viewers. With

consider sacred or is part of their culture or their religion."

As CNN's Anderson reported: "Tribes across the United States are waging similar battles to protect more than 50 sites sacred to them. But they're up against formidable opponents, like oil, gas and logging companies — modern-day enemies armed with big bucks and industry-friendly laws. So far, Native Americans have not won a single sacred sites dispute based on the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion."

In a poignant moment, a Native American activist commented: "I don't believe that if these were Christian sites important to mainline religions that we would see them being bulldozed without any legal protection."

The executive director of the Native American Journalists Association, Ruth Denny, told us that she had "mixed feelings" about the CNN series. She noted that the network's father, Ted Turner, has helped to perpetuate negative stereotypes with his Atlanta Braves baseball team and its "tomahawk chop."

In the future, you may be seeing a lot more Native Americans on network television. CBS has announced plans for a major eight-hour series about North American Indians, to be hosted and co-produced by Kevin Costner.

Whether such upcoming TV projects will represent genuine progress, or just a Hollywood gloss, remains to be seen.

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FEIFFER*

BEAUTIFUL WOMEN



ARE ATTRACTED TO HOMELY MEN



BUT HAIDONE MEU



ARE ONLY ATTRACTED TO HOMELY WOMEN



IF THEY'RE RIGHT



EQUALITY OF THE SEXES ONLY WORKS



IF YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL OR LOADED

JULY 1992

Alan Dershowitz

'NC-17' Rating
Smacks of Censorship

The Motion Picture Association of America — the people who put ratings on movies — deny that they engage in censorship. The rating system, they assure us, is designed solely as an aid to parents who wish guidance as to which movies they should allow their children to see. And they are right, so long as they limit their ratings to "G," "PG," "PG-13" and "R." These ratings do not prevent anyone from seeing a constitutionally protected film. So long as the parents of a youngster approve, that youngster may see any such film.

But recently a new rating was introduced — "NC-17." If a film receives that rating, no person under the age of 17 may view that film even if his or her parents want them to see it. Moreover, many theaters have an absolute policy of never showing NC-17 films, and some newspapers will not carry advertising for NC-17 films. It is not surprising, therefore, that most film studios and producers regard the NC-17 rating as a kiss of death for commercial purposes. Indeed, some contractually require the film makers to produce a product that receives an R, rather than an NC-17 rating.

Generally, the NC-17 rating is reserved for films that are far more sexually explicit or violent than R-rated films, but more socially redeeming than X-rated exploitation movies. Recently, however, the ratings board of the Motion Picture Association gave an NC-17 rating to a movie solely on the basis of its dialogue. As *Rolling Stone* magazine put it in an editorial: "It can't happen

here, not in the land of the free. But it has. 'Clerks' — a movie with no sex, no violence, and no harm done to animals — has been rated NC-17 because of talk. That's all it is, hilariously profane chatter between two 22-year-old New Jersey clerks."

Although 'Clerks' deals with young people struggling with jobs, love, sex, friendship and life, no youngster under the age of 17 would have been able to see this film with an NC-17 rating. Indeed if the NC-17 rating had stuck, few Americans of any age would have been able to see this award-winning film produced by two kids on a budget of \$27,000, since NC-17 films are generally not widely released. The irony is that the film would have been kept away from an adolescent audience precisely because it realistically captures the actual language of many members of that generation. Nothing in the dialogue will shock an adolescent audience. Yet the rating board that hands out R ratings to films that contain graphic visual portrayals of sex and violence decided to give 'Clerks' an NC-17. As is typical, they did not offer any explanation: nor did they advise the film makers which dialogue would have to be cut in order to earn an R.

To make matters worse, the Motion Picture Association banned the media from covering the appeal of the rating, despite the public importance of, and interest in, the rating process. I am the lawyer who represented the film 'Clerks,' so I cannot claim objectivity. But outside commentators have expressed criticism of both the process

and the result. In addition to giving the appeal process itself an "NP" rating — "no press" allowed — the association refused to allow a world-class adolescent psychiatrist to testify in favor of an R rating for 'Clerks,' though it did accept written submissions. In the end, the appeals panel did reverse the decision of the rating board and gave the film an R rating, which will now allow it to be distributed widely and seen by those adolescents whose parents approve. It is extremely rare for a rating to be reversed without cuts being made in the film, but 'Clerks' will not have to cut a single line. But even this victory for free speech leaves much to be remedied within the rating system. We still don't know for sure why the NC-17 rating was originally imposed on 'Clerks,' or why it was ultimately reversed, since no criteria were articulated either by the rating board or the appeals panel.

The time has come for the Motion Picture Association to acknowledge how much power the ratings really have — especially the NC-17 — and to reassess the entire rating system. Both the public and the film makers are entitled to more "due process" than they currently receive. Criteria should be decided upon in advance and published. A more formal process of appeal should be established. Unless these reforms are undertaken, it is simply a matter of time until the entire rating system is successfully challenged in court, since the effect of an NC-17 rating is not merely parental guidance — it is censorship of constitutionally protected films.

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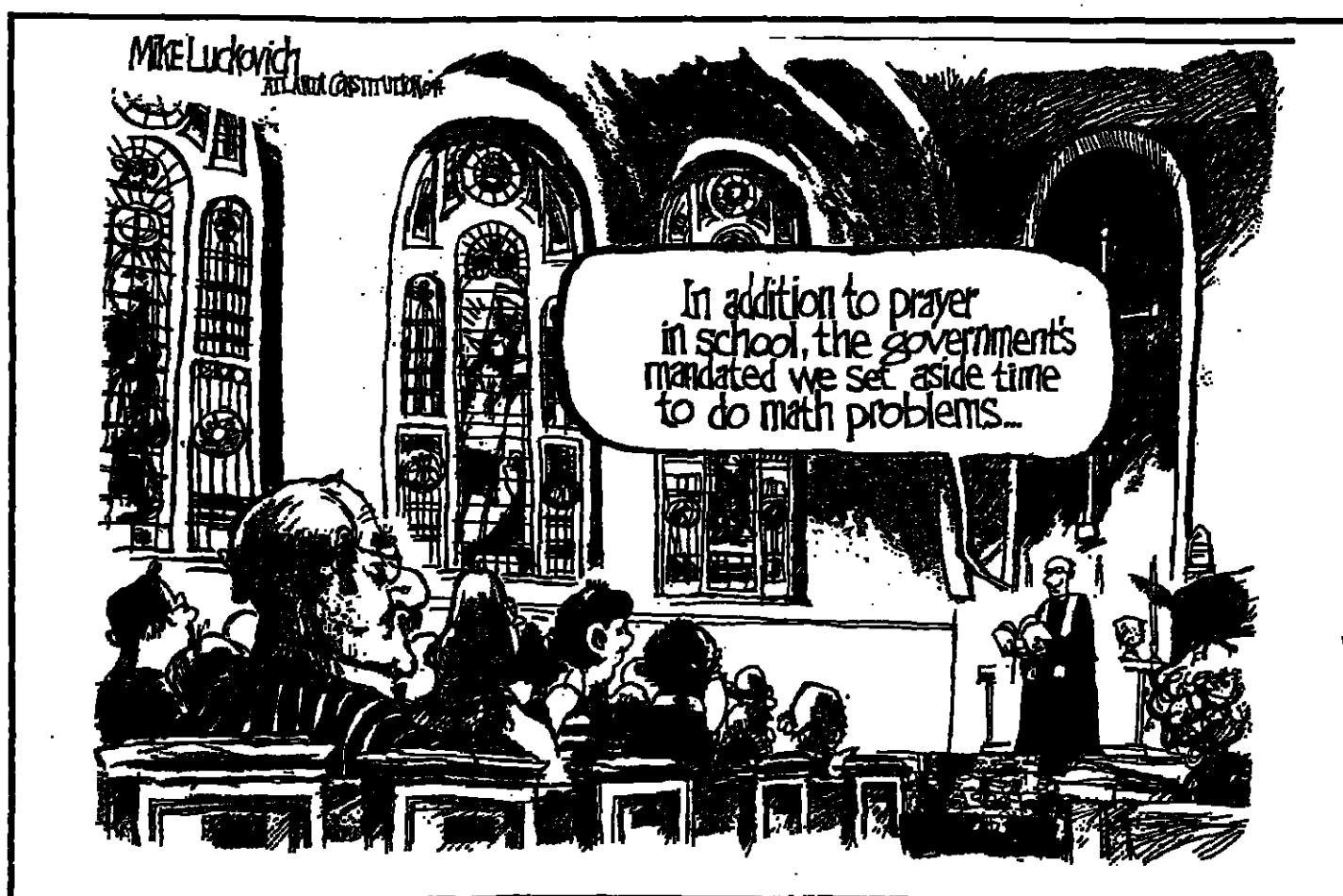
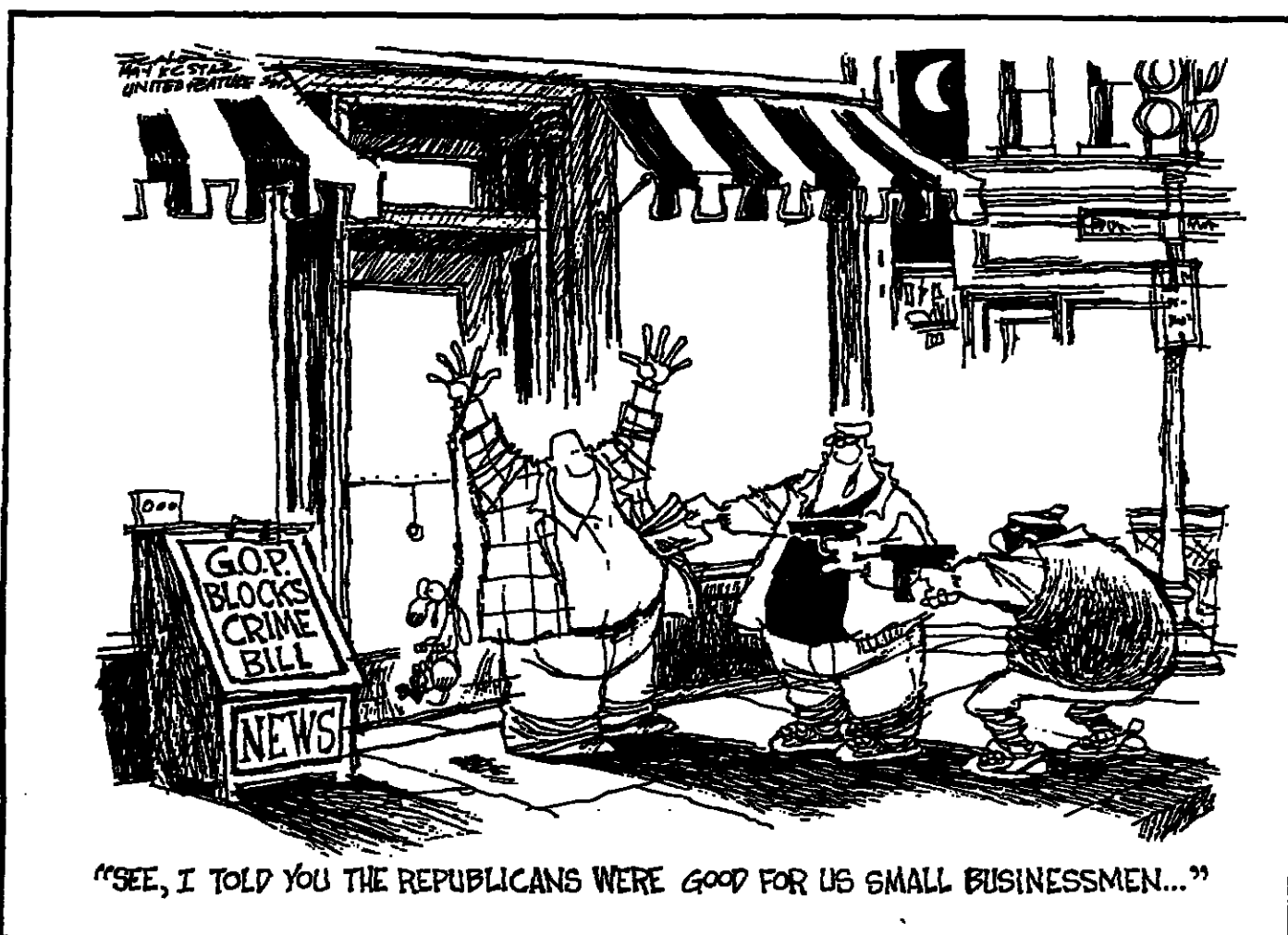
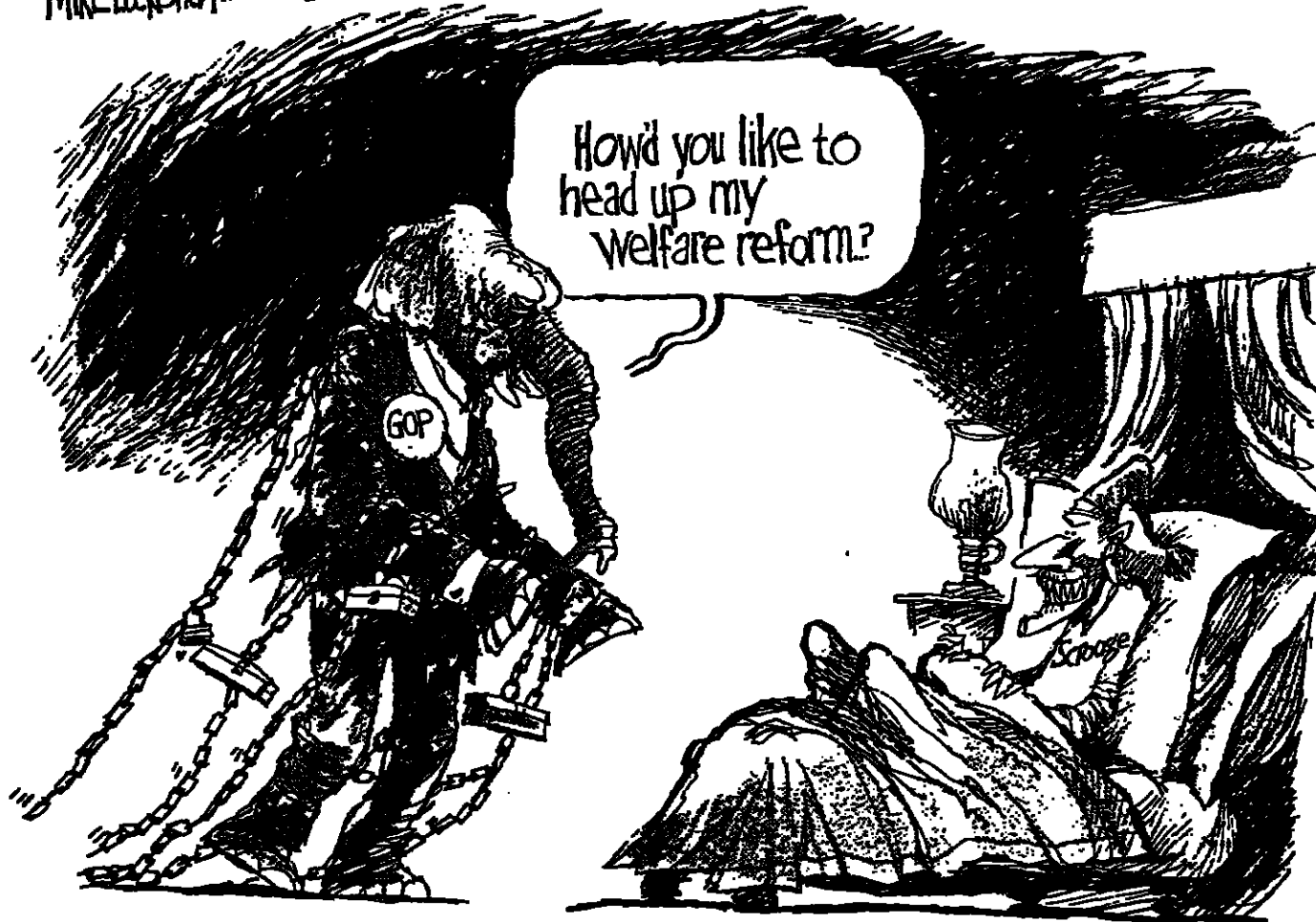
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

BK

PERSPECTIVE
WEEKLYEditor
Guy BernfeldAll rights reserved
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EDITORIAL
CARTOONS

Mike Luckovich ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



Andy Rooney

Stop The World,
I Want To Get Off

If there was a button I could push that I wouldn't push it. I don't want to know.

As a young man, I remember thinking I'd probably live to be 83. That seemed pretty good. Once I got within 20 years of that age, however, I moved it back. Now I think that if I ever get to be 82, I'll probably revise my estimate by at least 10 years.

A scientist named J. Richard Gott says that the life expectancy of anything — the universe, the human race, the Catholic

years — forget 2 million years or even 5,128 years.

I looked at what's happened in our hometown in the 40 years we've lived there and I shudder to think what it'll be like in another 40.

A few days after that story, I read another about how bad life is in New Delhi right now. I was in New Delhi years ago and I wondered at the time why people there had the desire to remain alive under conditions such as misery.

Like so many articles on science and medicine, when it got right down to the nitty-gritty, it didn't pay off. Dr. Gott predicts intelligent human beings will last on earth for "somewhere between 5,128 years and 7.8 million years." Well, holy mackerel, professor, that's not exactly pinpoint bombing.

Church, the Miss America contest — can be accurately predicted.

I saw this in the New York Times, and I read the whole article because I wanted to find out when the last Miss America pageant will be. It can't be soon enough as far as I'm concerned.

Like so many articles on science and medicine, when it got right down to the nitty-gritty, it didn't pay off. Dr. Gott predicts intelligent human beings will last on earth for "somewhere between 5,128 years and 7.8 million years." Well, holy mackerel, professor, that's not exactly pinpoint bombing. That's like me saying my checking account has in it somewhere between \$1.98 and \$369, 893, 071, 842. 87.

It's estimated that man has already been on Earth for about 200,000 years. Dr. Gott says that the most probable life span of homo sapiens is a couple million years, so he suggests we start looking around for other planets for future generation to live on.

The only comfort in the thought that I won't be alive in 100 years is what Earth will be like then. It doesn't look as if it's going to be a very nice place to live in 100

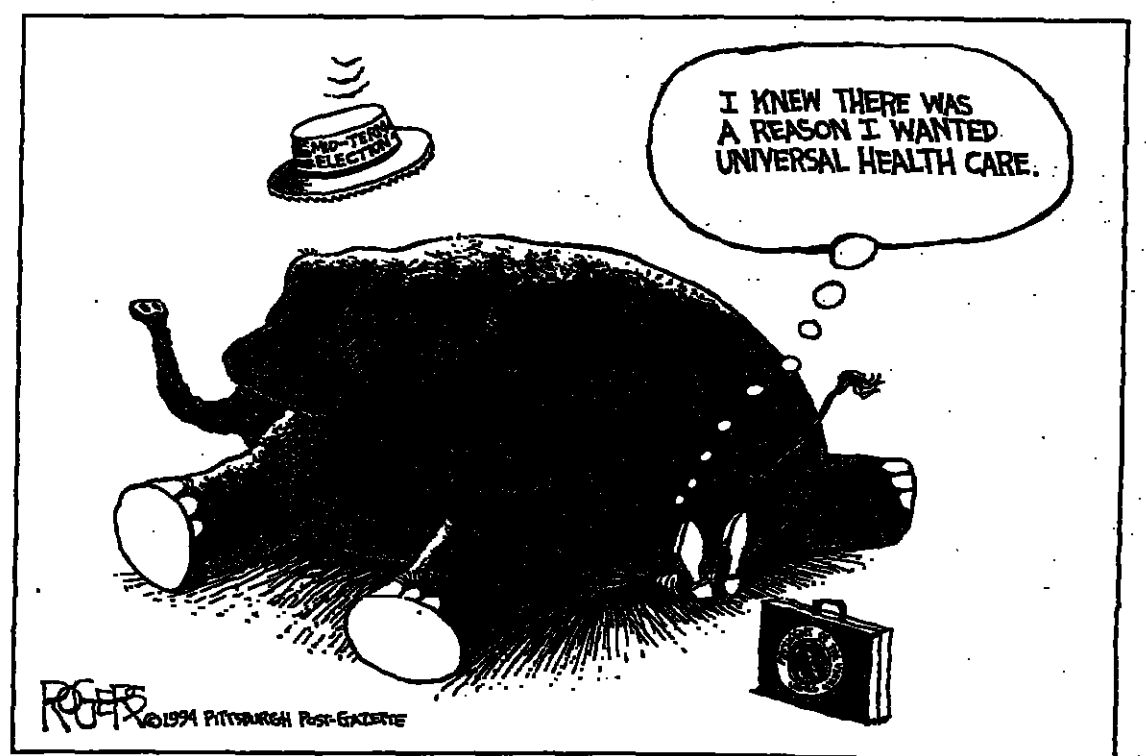
It's hard to conceive of things being worse than when I was in India, but according to the story, written on a day when the temperature was 114 degrees, New Delhi (which, keep in mind, is a lot better than Calcutta) didn't have water or electricity. The system had simply broken down. City government and services had all but collapsed and mountains of putrid garbage were piling up in the streets. Sound like somewhere you'd like to go on vacation?

Since I was in New Delhi, the population has grown to four times what it was. The population of New Delhi is now 9.5 million, and by the year 2000, just seven years from now, it will be 13.5 million.

It's incredible that people continue to reproduce under such conditions in India and elsewhere. You see pictures on television of men and women in Somalia. They're too weak to stand but somehow they've called up the strength to produce babies that are everywhere.

Maybe when I'm 83, I'll take another trip to India. A look at what the future of the world will be like if we don't stop having more children than we can take care of, might make leaving all this behind a little easier.

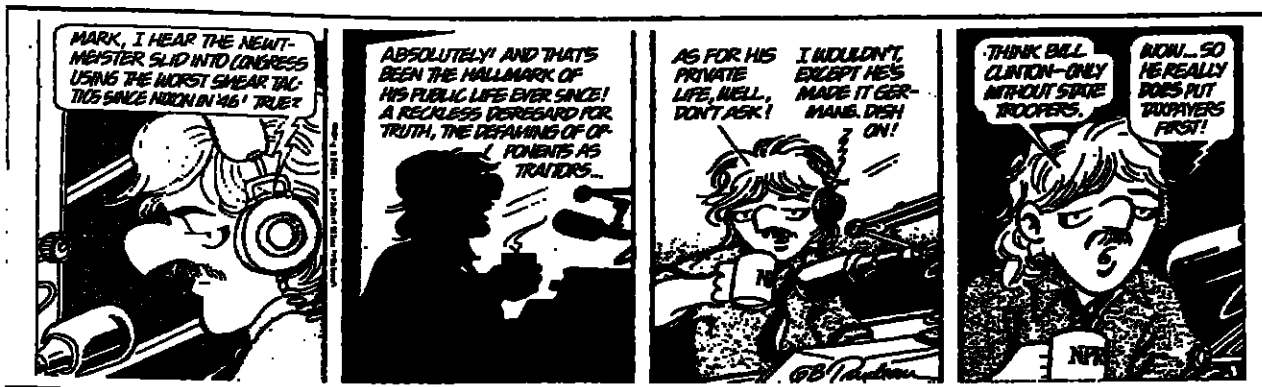
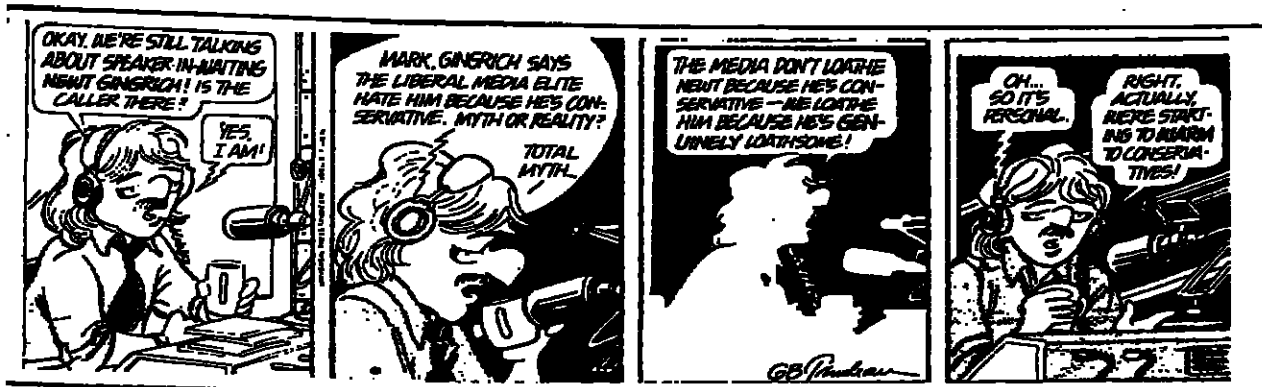
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ALAN GREENSPAN IN LOVE

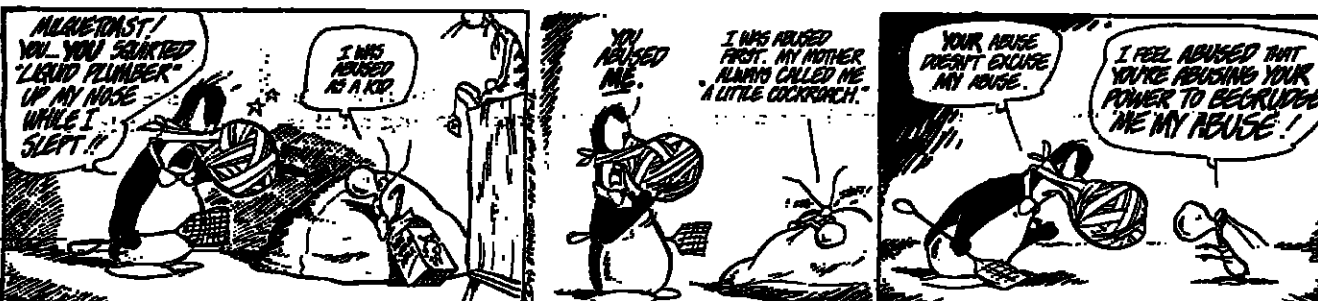
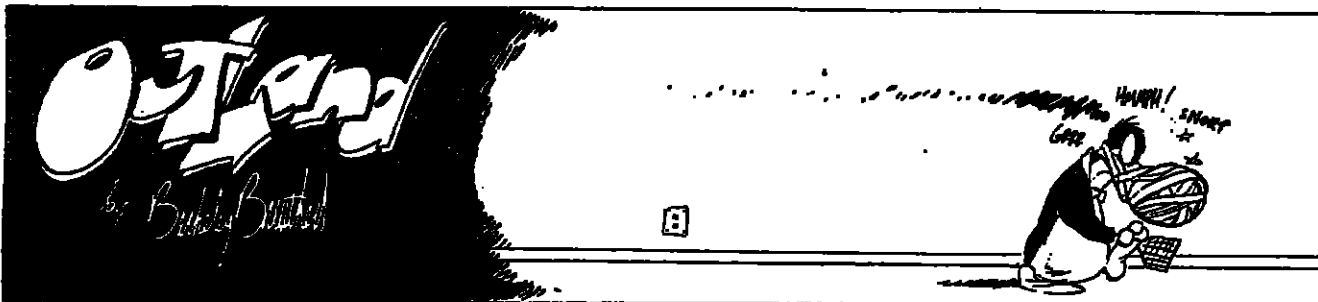
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



THE FAR SIDE

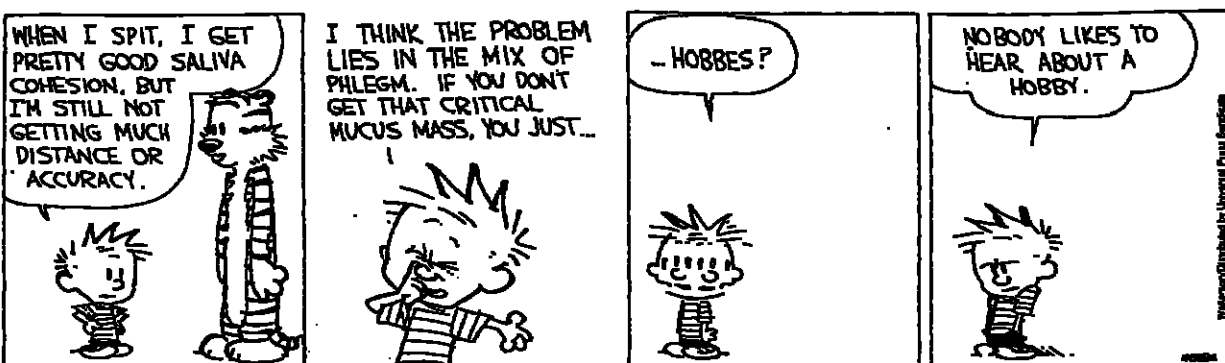
by GARY LARSON



"Soy... Now THERE'S a little hair!"

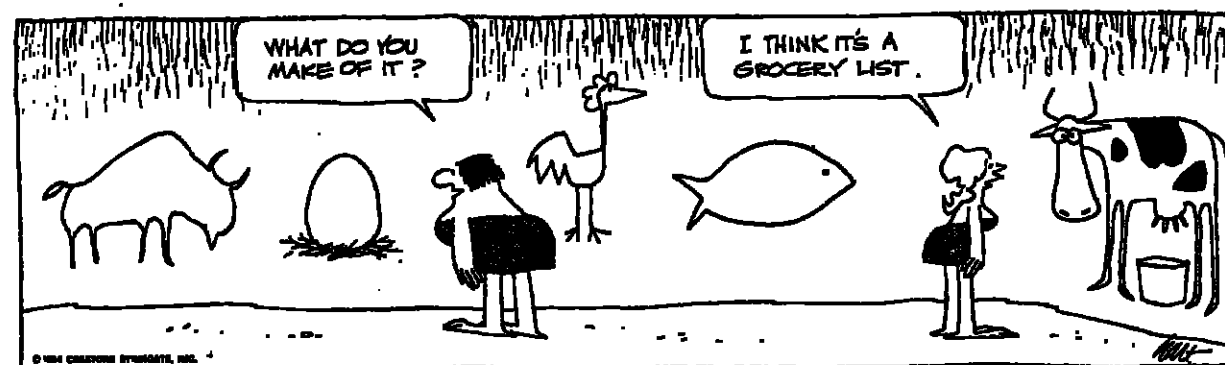
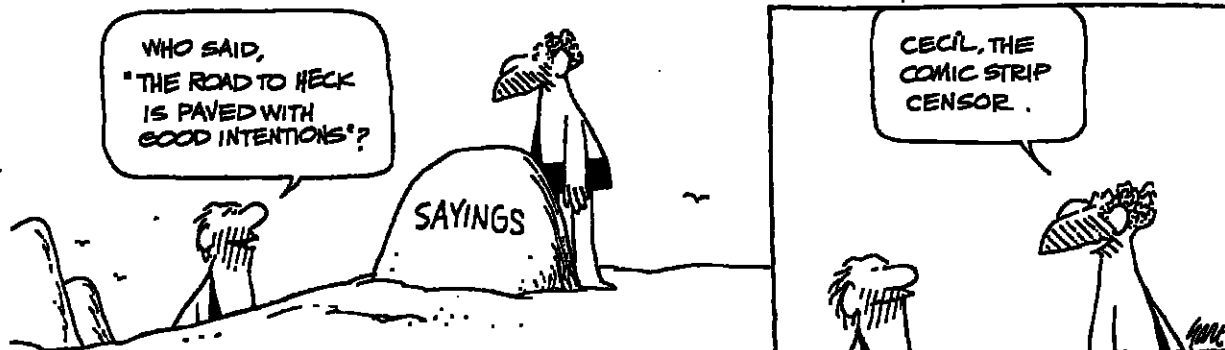
Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



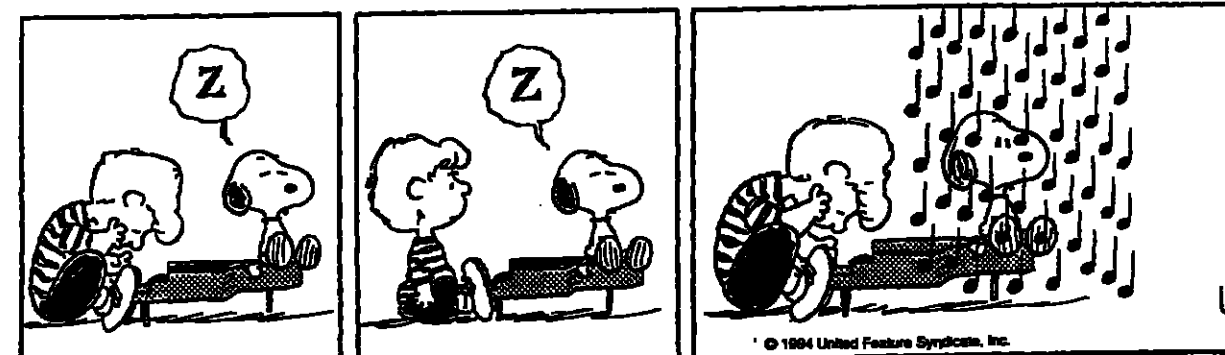
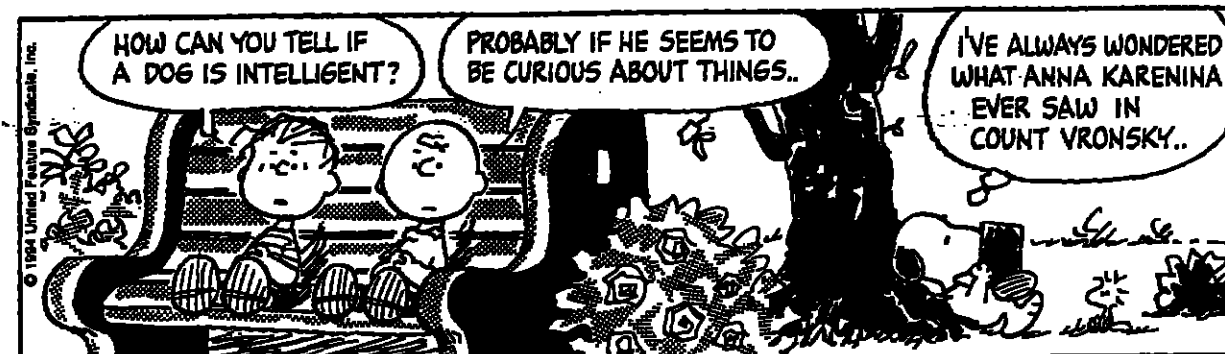
B.C.

by Johnny Hart



PEANUTS

by Charles M. Schulz



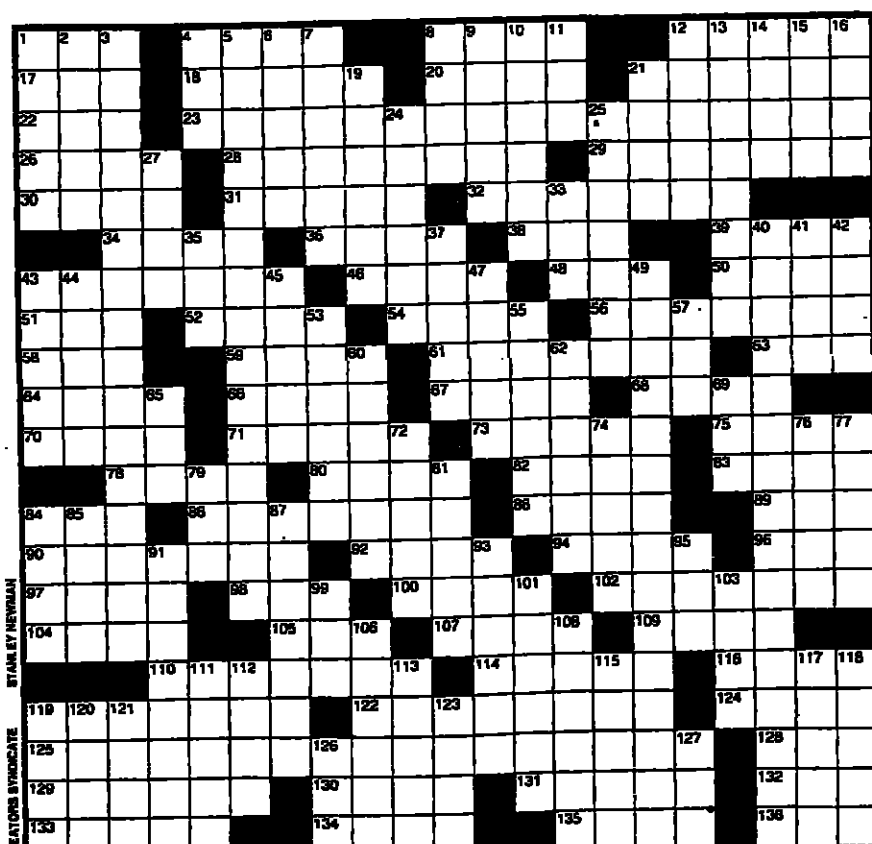
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman
BODY LANGUAGE: Anatomical wordplay
by Robert H. Wolfe

- ACROSS
- Frankenstein's milieu
 - Track shape
 - Public spat
 - Doctor's org.
 - Entertainment!
 - Tiny bug
 - More banal
 - Hill (Bay Area sight)
 - Lobes' ailure?
 - Dolls' dates
 - Big wheel in Vegas
 - Most blithe
 - Therefore
 - Daisylike bloom
 - Takes for granted
 - Coil, marchers
 - Chem. and bio.
 - Levy
 - Rain cats and dogs
 - Come forth
 - Like a skyscraper
 - Match (against)
 - Fictional Jane
 - Brittle isle
 - Cats and dogs
 - Writer Anita
 - Turbulent flood
 - Strange
 - Confused one's comment
 - Imperturbable
 - Poor grade
 - Capture on cassette
 - Pro followers
 - School on the Thames
 - Pretty Woman star
 - Actor Jannings
 - JFK or GBS
 - Nirvana seeker
 - Kitty food

- DOWN
- Pub potations
 - Character actress
 - Shaw
 - Superintendency
 - No suffix
 - Dawson of football
 - One at the helm
 - RR stops
 - Bargain garment abstr.
 - Space between vocal cords
 - Give the cold
 - More dilapidated
 - Percolate
 - Ice T's forte
 - Ambience
 - Drug-law enforcer
 - Pen pals
 - Verbalizes anger
 - Orbiter org.
 - Played up to
 - Drenches the ballgame
 - Singer Redding
 - Praying nervously?
 - Psyche parts
 - Reminders: Fr.
 - Regrets
 - Bowling-alley button
 - Bullfight cheer
 - Low cards
 - La vie!
 - Magile and Mineo
 - Tennis obstacle

- ACROSS
- Romance
 - Cyrano's favorite instruments?
 - Handcuff's trait?
 - Pol sources
 - Swaggers
 - Forget to include
 - Far-reaching view
 - Vouch for
 - Kausal keepsake
 - Metric measure
 - Gas-mask part
 - Gen. Robert
 - Untouchables' honcho
 - It precedes "while"
 - Finest-quality
 - Slender
 - Soap opera
 - Aluminum ore
 - By and by
 - Syrup source
 - Faucet
 - Sision site
 - Neatrighted driver's license?
 - Feathered fish eater
 - Deal (out)
 - Overact
 - Lady's address
 - Patriot Allien
 - Reluctant
 - Hard-to-pronounce alloy?
 - Swiftness prose form
 - Zeno's followers
 - US 1, e.g.
 - "He don't plant..."
 - Congratial
 - Building wing
 - Tafari
 - (Halle Selassie)



- DOWN
- Shorthand expert
 - Wee amounts
 - Hauts, IN
 - Slip-up
 - Caribou clock setting: Abstr.
 - Resort island
 - Sizes above meds.
 - Style magazine
 - Erik of CHiPs

- ACROSS
- Lukewarmth
 - Oil city
 - Caspan or Coral
 - Were in session
 - Blackboard cleaner
 - First Bond film
 - Chicken Frank
 - Battery parts
 - Dressed to the
 - Pigsty

- DOWN
- Rice wines
 - Oil city
 - Move like a crab
 - Height, to a cager
 - Legal wrong
 - Unique individual
 - Church section
 - Part of MIT
 - AEC successor
 - Ave. crossers

QUOTE CRYPTOGRAM by Rebecca Kornbluh

ABNHB VVHK TNK RWW IZBY N AEZMV NGT XVB ZB RFBVH IZBY - I. Q.

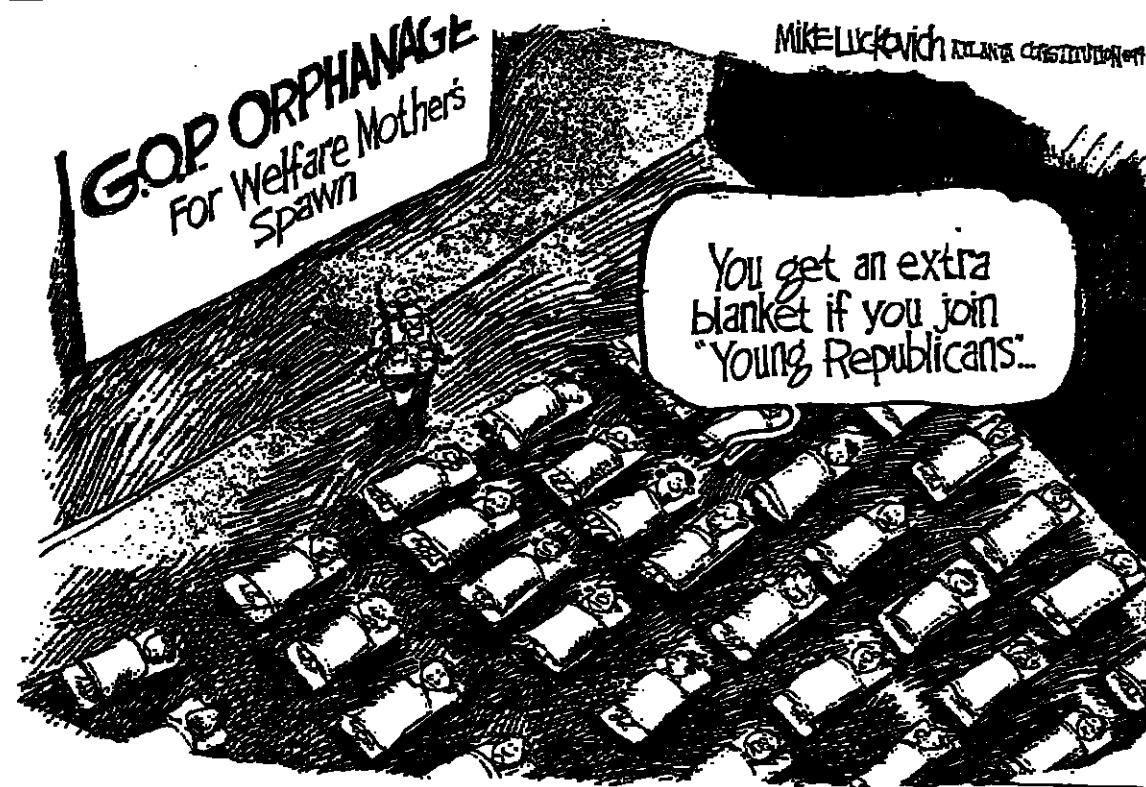
WZVMTA

Last Week's Quote Cryptogram: If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one? - Abraham Lincoln

WASHINGTON, D.C.—

James Ridgeway

The Contract On America



Thanks to an oddball alliance of libertarian economics and the Christian Right's social program, the reform policies put forward by the Republican Party seem certain to take the federal welfare system down a new and dramatic road to hell.

The policies affect all aspects of the welfare state, but at the forefront is an initiative that will create a new social class deprived of all benefits from any future welfare system and forever viewed as outcasts.

The targets of this new social order are the illegitimate children of teenage women who, with their mothers, are to be denied all forms of social welfare—a plan that is little more than state-mandated vengeance for violating the code of patriarchy and family.

These draconian measures follow naturally from the other forms of social punishment the government is presently pushing. And like the death penalty and the crime bill—which the Republicans promise to tighten—the welfare proposals have nothing to do with exacting change for social good.

Yet this highly emotional and vengeful campaign would be nothing without its underpinnings—an increasingly popular free market economic panacea that is being sold to the public in the most reasonable of ways.

The driving force behind this conservative program is the Heritage Foundation, which over the last decade has occupied center stage as the preeminent think tank in Washington, long ago outstripping the Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute. It has worked hard to give the new right a friendly face, and Heritage has provided the core of the Reagan and Bush administrations in terms of personnel and the ideas that drove both them.

Heritage was the architect of the attack on the New Deal Congress, and has been an important force in developing the assault on the liberal-minded federal civil service, the drive for privatization, and the overall philosophy of free market economics.

The main person behind the Heritage plans is Stuart M. Butler, a foundation vice president and a former policy aide to the Thatcher administration in Great Britain. For more than a decade, the 47-year-old Butler has quietly and persistently guided the Heritage Foundation's attack on the welfare state, formulating the plans for its ultimate elimination.

"We would argue," says Butler, "that the primary trouble in welfare is the breakdown of families in low-income communities and the welfare system is a factor in that. One of the primary objectives in reforming the welfare system should be to reverse that trend."

As Butler sees it, the main goal of social reform is to reduce the nation's level of illegitimacy, which in part can be achieved through the cutting of

benefits. But a key aspect of the plan also involves making states the primary designers of welfare reform. "It's a federalism issue," says Butler.

Butler is currently working on a prepping manual to be used at the training session Heritage runs for the incoming freshman congressional class. In it the foundation will set out the details of the conservative agenda across the government, including welfare. It is precisely these plans that have sparked such outrage in the pages of *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, where the proposed reforms have been widely derided as inhumane.

"There is a dispute, a misconception about conservative approaches here," says Butler. "We don't want to force people with young children to put their kids in day care and so on.... We are looking to introduce workfare to those who are most able to join the workforce with minimum disruption to their family."

Butler also cries foul on the way the press has reported the conservative manifesto regarding the placement of illegitimate children of mothers under 18 years old in orphanages. "Journalists say, oh! the conservatives want the government to take away kids and put them in orphanages." But says Butler, "I mean it has nothing to do with that. All it's trying to say is there has to be a better way than just having a 16-year-old with their kids in some public housing project unable to do anything. At least give alternative options. They could be homes of some kind, maternity homes, they could be encouraging

adoption. It could be some other thing we're not even aware of. That's what experimentation is all about."

This experimentation is unlikely to go anywhere. Despite largely successful conservative attempts to throttle welfare in recent years, the number of single mothers keeps on rising. And according to the initial analysis of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal-minded think tank, the Republican plan is not as straightforward as it sounds.

As set forth in an earlier set of congressional bills, Republicans, in general, would deny a mother and her baby welfare benefits and housing assistance if the mother was 18 or younger and not married. The child would only be eligible for welfare and housing if the mother married the father of the child, or if she later married another man, who would then have to formally adopt the child.

Without formal adoption, the illegitimate child would be barred from receiving any benefits even if the mother got married. The scheme applies to all applicants for assistance, so even if a 30-year-old woman, who as a teenager had a child out of wedlock, applies for assistance, she and the child will be turned away. According to the center, this emphasis on establishing paternity would eliminate 3 million children from receiving welfare assistance.

The monies saved under this provision would be bundled into block grants and returned to the states for use in building orphanages, arranging adoptions, or whatever other "experiments" they might try so long as they do not pay cash benefits.

Under the Republican proposals, the food stamp program and all other food assistance programs would be eliminated, and the money saved would be given to the states in the form of a block grant to use for nutrition programs. Most probably, the money earmarked for these grants would be far less than that being directed into the current federal programs. Children born out of wedlock would also be denied food assistance.

In the Republican plans, everyone who receives welfare would have to work 35 hours, including such groups as parents caring for disabled children and parents with disabilities of their own. And as they would be working only for benefits, their wage level would be far below minimum wage. According to the center's figures, parents in the median state working 35 hours per week for a monthly grant of \$367 would only earn \$2.43 an hour.

Just in case these provisos still keep people clinging to handouts, states would be required to terminate everyone on welfare, regardless of their situation, after five years, and states could terminate welfare after two years so long as one of the parents was in the work program for a year. This proposal could end welfare for 5 million children and perhaps half that many mothers.

Since the early 1980s Butler and the Heritage Foundation have been formulating their agenda. One of their main targets has been public housing, and they have attempted to create coalitions of homeless advocates, public housing groups, as well as black conservative politicians and thinkers to break up the public housing coalition.

Butler believes that the solution to public housing is to subsidize decent housing through a voucher system that would "give them the widest possible choices about where they live and to what extent they want to spend their money as opposed to other services." Likewise, he also believes vouchers are the key to health insurance.

As for the unemployed, "under the kind of proposal we had the tax credit would be essentially a voucher. They would be able to get that directly and continue under at least a minimum health plan." "As far as possible," says Butler, "we're saying we will give you something that will enable you to get a full range of services and we will give you pretty wide discretion as to what you want to do. The idea is not to micromanage people's lives but to have at least the means to have a decent opportunity."

This new Republican agenda is offered up as a way to reduce the cost of welfare and to break the cycle of poverty. But while Heritage and the Republicans hump a wide variety of social programs under the category of "welfare," there is only one cash payment, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), issued by the federal government and it amounts to less than 1 per cent of the federal budget.

As studies have shown, one notably included in Christopher Jencks's *Rethinking Social Policy*, many people on welfare already work to make ends meet. They hold low-paying service work jobs, or make more money by selling drugs and working as prostitutes. It would make far more sense simply to raise the minimum wage.

The best bet for welfare reform, embraced heretofore by conservatives and liberals, would be to convert AFDC into a form of general support for women who work, and then to provide additional support through the earned income tax credit. And basically, that's the way the country was headed before the election.

But beyond these narrow points, the prospects of a vastly improved life for people dependent on welfare in an era of free market economics are slim. The various nutrition programs of the federal government, for example, are not just meant for the benefit of the people who receive them, but are important underpinnings of the farm industry, which finds a form of subsidy in the government's various social welfare programs. And beyond that, many of the industries that would be involved in a remake of social welfare, insurance, for example, have already taken consolidation steps to protect them from the effects of true free market economics.

The overall problem remains the flooded work force, where permanent well-paying jobs are in scarce supply, and where increasingly people work two or three jobs at once to make ends meet. In the end, the only way to make life tolerable under these market conditions is for the government to construct a far more pervasive social service network.

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Gary Cohen

Bhopal and the New World Order

Ten years ago, on December 3, 1984, the Union Carbide Corporation leaked a poisonous gas into the city of Bhopal, India from its pesticides factory. In one night of chemical terror several thousand residents were killed and hundreds of thousands of others were injured, many of them permanently. Bhopal has been called the "Hiroshima of the Chemical Industry," the worst commercial industrial disaster in history.

In the ten years since the chemical disaster, there have been few positive changes in Bhopal. Union Carbide's pesticides factory remains abandoned and contaminated. Despite extradition orders pending since March 1992, the Indian government has made no moves to bring former Union Carbide CEO Warren Anderson to trial. Instead, the government is courting chemical companies to expand their manufacturing to India, replacing traditional consumer products and farming with plastics and chemical agriculture. For Union Carbide and the Indian government, the Bhopal incident is a public relations nightmare that is fading in the public's memory.

For the victims of the Bhopal disaster, the toxic nightmare has continued unabated:

* At least 15,000 people have died so far from injuries related to their toxic chemical exposure a decade ago. More than 60 people continue to die each month.

* Six hundred thousand people have injury claims before the compensation courts set up in Bhopal. Of the claims processed so far, two-thirds have been denied compensation because the courts do not understand the "systemic" effects of their chemical exposure. People are suffering from a kind of chemically induced AIDS, where the destruction of the immune system leads to many other illnesses. Many of the claimants will be dead by the time their cases are heard before the courts.

The bright sign in this otherwise bleak landscape is that people have continued to struggle for their lives and for justice.

There have been hundreds of protests in Delhi and Bhopal. There have been international hearings on corporate human rights abuses held in Bhopal. Recently, an international medical commission visited Bhopal to help facilitate streamlined compensation and health assistance to those affected. Activists from Bhopal have shared their experiences with environmental groups on four continents. People in Bhopal have not given up.

The significance of the Union Carbide disaster, however, extends well beyond Bhopal. Unfortunately, Bhopal is not an anomaly. It takes its place beside so many

The significance of the Union Carbide disaster, however, extends well beyond Bhopal. Unfortunately, Bhopal is not an anomaly. It takes its place beside so many other mass graves created during the last hundred years.

other mass graves created during the last hundred years. During the first half of the century, mass destruction was carried out in the name of nationalist ideologies that made certain people enemies of the state, therefore expendable. In the latter days of the century the global corporation has emerged as the predominant agent of destruction, with an ideology that condones the sacrifice of people and the planet at the altar of free trade and next quarter's profit margin.

Through a narrow economic logic that has become a religious catechism, social, environmental and public health goals are considered "external" to the corporation's drive to realize a profit. Additionally, spiritual values, the fundamental threads that connect us to what is sacred in nature and to each other, have become not only irrelevant, but are considered backward and primitive, blocking the inevitable path of "progress."

Those who resist this industrial and technological juggernaut—workers, communities, native and Third World

peoples, traditional farmers—have become expendable. In addition to the extinction of thousands of plant and animal species, the United Nations reports that in this century alone, 2000 different peoples have been declared extinct. This is the brave new world of global corporate trade.

Sociologist Hannah Arendt, in attempting to understand the Nazi era, has concluded that evil was not only committed by psychopaths and fundamentalist zealots, but by people who were simply doing their jobs. In this way, thousands of petty officials could fulfill their small, seemingly innocuous jobs, connected together in a vast machinery of brutality and injustice that sent millions of people to their deaths.

The Nazi's efficient technological and corporate structure was an effective mechanism both in removing individual responsibility and in dehumanizing the people who were the victims of this evil. Jews in transport trains to the death

government on behalf of the Bhopal victims, its stock rose two dollars. Yet people in Bhopal remain sick and dying, their cases lost in a hopeless bureaucracy that will likely outlive them.

Other examples of this corporate philosophy abound. The DuPont Corporation has continued producing CFCs throughout the 1980s until today even though research 20 years ago showed these chemicals destroyed the ozone layer and would lead to millions of skin cancers worldwide. As long as DuPont could evade liability for these health consequences, it made sense to continue producing the chemicals. The Johns Manville Corporation continued to produce asbestos even when research showed that asbestos was killing its workers. For decades Union Carbide, DuPont, Kerr McGee, General Electric, Rockwell International and other nuclear weapons manufacturers deliberately covered up massive nuclear contamination problems even though their workers and the general public were being exposed to dangerous levels of radiation. An admission of their negligence would have cost them billions of dollars and perhaps their government contracts, so they simply covered it up.

Recently, this corporate logic has become enshrined in the economic underpinning of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and other trade agreements. Global corporations are free to export dangerous products and technologies to more than 110 nations, as they shop around for the cheapest labor costs and weakest environmental and public health protections. It has made the further violence to the Earth and its species not only possible, but inevitable: the destruction of the Earth's remaining rainforests, global trade in weapons, toxic waste and poisonous chemicals, biotech cloning of animals for commodity markets, and the sacrifice of people and other species in the name of profit.

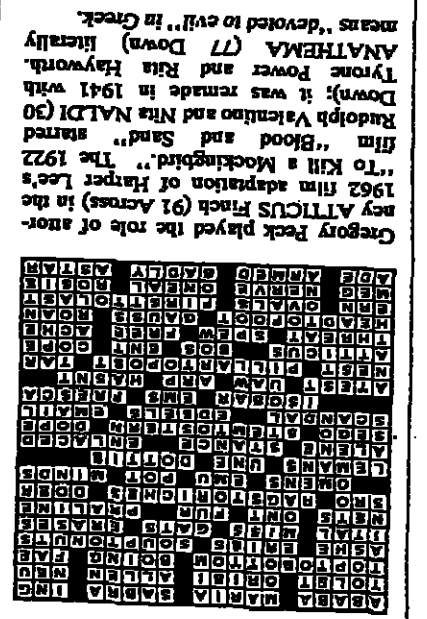
What is most frightening about Bhopal is that it is not unusual in the New World Order. It is the way people are routinely treated by global corporations in the world today. Cancer-causing pesticides banned in the West are freely sold to farmers in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia. Native American nations are bribed to accept nuclear waste on their sacred lands. Malaysian hill people are killed or run off their land so Japanese companies can cut down the forests to make chopsticks. Lead gasoline, banned in the West

because of its devastating health effects on children, is sold to Thailand, Mexico and India. This kind of corporate violence is repeated in every corner of the Earth.

Today people around the globe are resisting the corporate technological juggernaut. They are resisting an economic philosophy that would pave over the planet and turn every living thing into a commodity to be exploited. People in Bhopal have not given up their struggle for justice. Indigenous peoples and communities worldwide are resisting massive dam projects, the clearcutting of forests, toxic waste imports, chemical agriculture, nuclear power plants and many other projects destructive to a sustainable way of life.

Bhopal is not only a symbol of the technological failures of the 20th century, but a powerful warning sign for the next century. Are we willing to continue to enjoy the commodities of global trade at the expense of species extinction, poisoned communities and workers and ecological devastation of epic dimensions? Are we willing to sacrifice all that is sacred so that a few powerful corporations can become wealthier than most of the world's nations? Bhopal calls us to mourn for the dead, but it also challenges us to fight for the living, both in Bhopal and around the globe.

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Cat snack: They like it leafy

HEADS 'N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

SOME lucky people manage to keep both cats and houseplants, but in most homes, one tends to eat the other.

A reader wrote to ask what could be grown in planters that cats won't eat. It seems that the planters have been denuded of all foliage.

Almost all cats - including outdoor felines - like to eat some vegetable matter. Grass is a favorite, and many love cucumbers and other vegetables. Sometimes a cat can be deterred from eating plants by giving it sliced cucumbers or melon, or - a great favorite - fresh alfalfa sprouts. One Tel Aviv cat owner reduces damage to plants by growing wheat and alfalfa in small trays and placing them where the cat can easily get to them.

Other solutions include keeping plants out of reach - in hanging planters or on high shelves. Sometimes the plants can be protected by dusting the shelf with fresh-ground black pepper.

Among plants that cats don't eat are the various types of asparagus, some of which are quite attractive. Cacti are also immune to this depredation, though unthorned succulents are a real favorite for cat noshing. For the balcony, chrysanthemums are pretty safe as are dwarf marigolds, which have an odor that cats dislike.

Miniature roses are less attractive to cats, perhaps because of the serrated thorny edge of the leaf, or something else in the texture.

We don't really know the criteria cats have for favoring one plant over another, but it seems that taste and texture are factors. Coleus and impatiens are high on the desirability list, and begonias are almost irresistible.

Avoid poisonous plants including cyclamens and dieffenbachias of all sorts. Indoor bulbs are sometimes eaten by an experimenting cat so beware of the calla lily, even on the balcony, and, of course, no tubs of oleander.

Cats don't usually eat potted herbs except for thyme, but if the pot is large enough, they may still destroy them by rubbing against and lying on them. Rue is safe because almost all cats detest its smell.

There are no truly catproof solutions except keeping plants where the cat cannot reach them. This does limit your choices - but at least you won't have to watch your cherished plants being turned into a feline salad bar.



Before and after: The 5,000 year old mummy of 'Otzi' (left) and a sketch of what he may have looked like. (REUTERS/APF)

The aches and pains of 'Ice Man'

BRENDA COLEMAN
CHICAGO

THOUGH he lived more than 5,000 years ago, his aches and pains were a lot like ours.

"Ice Man," whose well-preserved body was discovered in a glacier three years ago in Italy's Tyrolean Alps, had arthritis, hardening of the arteries and broken ribs that healed slowly over time, researchers reported last Wednesday.

"When you think of 5,300 years, it seems like an enormous time to any of us who may have a life span of 70 years. But in evolutionary history, it's just the wink of an eye," said Dr. William Murphy, head of diagnostic imaging at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Murphy reported on the medical miseries of the mummy, dubbed "Otzi" because it was found in Italy's Otzval Valley, at the annual meeting of the Radio-

logical Society of North America. "It's really not much different from modern man," Murphy said. "There are very impressive similarities."

Researchers believe the gap-toothed Otzi was 25 to 40 when he died, but he already had developed fairly severe osteoarthritis - the kind believed to result from wear and tear - in his neck, low back and one hip, Murphy said.

Osteoarthritis in one little toe also suggests he may have suffered from a bout of frostbite.

Calcium deposits were discovered in the blood vessels of Otzi's chest, pelvis and neck, indicating heart disease stalked the Stone Age man despite his almost certainly rigorous existence.

"He had hardening of the arteries - arteriosclerosis," Murphy

said. But researchers have no way of knowing whether this was unusual for men of Otzi's age in that era. "He's the only reference point we have for 5,300 years ago."

Eight or so fractures were discovered in Otzi's ribs, but no one can say whether they occurred all at once or at different times, Murphy said.

"It's the kind of thing that might have hospitalized modern man. It certainly would have sent modern man to the emergency room," he said. "He did very well with these injuries."

Murphy was part of an international team assembled at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, to examine the mummy with modern X-ray techniques. They have tak-

en more than 2,000 images of Otzi since he was found.

Otzi was found in the ice by hikers. The corpse is the best preserved European known from 4,000 to 6,000 years ago, when humans were just starting to use copper for tools and weapons.

The body is being stored in a freezer at the University of Innsbruck, and researchers are allowed to work with it only 20 or 30 minutes at a time to prevent it from deteriorating.

"Modern radiology offers the ideal tool to study an important anthropological treasure such as this, because it enables us to view inside the body without causing damage," said Murphy. Previously reported X-ray studies have focused on his skull.

Analysis of materials with the corpse has led scientists to believe that after Otzi died he was buried and preserved in accumulating snow and ice.

Great Escape survivors recall it wasn't so great

MORE than 50 years after the "Great Escape" from a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp, seven survivors met for a reunion on Wednesday, and said the escape wasn't so great.

"It was not a great escape because 50 were killed and it gained notoriety," said Bob Nelson, meeting with six comrades at a hotel in Wiveliscombe, Somerset,

in western England.

The escape, from Stalag Luft 3 near Sagan in Poland in March 1944, was the basis of a 1963 movie starring Steve McQueen, Richard Attenborough and James Garner.

On March 24, 1944, after sunset, 80 Allied airmen crawled 107 meters through a 19 sq. cm. tunnel nine meters under the ground.

Four were arrested at the escape exit. The tunnel took two years to construct.

This year's reunion was prompted by a visit to England by Canadian survivor Tony Bethell.

Of the 76 who escaped, three made it to their homes in Norway and Denmark. The Germans captured the 73 others, and Hitler ordered them to be handed to the

Gestapo, who killed 50.

"Why the Gestapo spared 23 was by the grace of God," Nelson said. "Although it has been said they selected me and Dick Churchill [another Briton] because they thought our names gave us greater hostage value."

Of the 26 survivors, 16 are still alive and are scattered throughout the world.

A Jewish try to find common ground with Hitler hit a fault line

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

THE editor of the Zionist-sponsored weekly in Berlin, *Judische Rundschau*, warned the newly elected Hitler that Germany was composed of different elements, each of which was entitled to respect.

To come to terms with nationalistic circles, editor Robert Weltsch suggested, Jews should be accorded cultural autonomy on the understanding that they would keep out of German political and social life.

If Jews agreed to keep within bounds, everything would be all right, he believed.

The reaction of Zionists in Germany and Jerusalem to events between 1933 and 1939 is described in minute detail by Daniel Fraenkel in *At Pi Thom* ("On the Edge of the Abyss," published by the Magnes Press, the Hebrew University and the Leo Baeck Institute, Jerusalem, 232 pp.).

Indirectly, it answers the nagging question of why relatively few efforts were made to save the 600,000 Jews living in Germany on the eve of World War II.

Weltsch's wishful thinking was not shared by some of his German

Zionist colleagues, Fraenkel notes.

Gustav Krojanker, a German author and Zionist who settled in Palestine in 1932, argued a year before his emigration that the new German nationalism, as professed by the Nazis, marked the emergence of a homogeneous jingoism.

The Germans were not looking for common ground with the Jews; they sought unity by hating whoever was different from them. Ultimately, Krojanker predicted, they must degenerate into barbarism. Zionists should look reality in the face.

THE ZIONIST establishment tried to keep a low profile when the Nazis came to power, on the advice of the few old-time officials of the foreign ministry who still maintained contact with Jews.

Goering, the new interior minister in Prussia, did not invite Zionists when he called Jewish leaders to warn them against a planned protest meeting of Jewish organizations in New York.

Kurt Blumenfeld, chairman of the Zionist organization in Germany, shared Krojanker's views. He strenuously insisted on being received with the other leaders.

Goering wanted a delegation sent to Jewish leaders in Britain

and America asking them to desist from their "horror propaganda" against Germany.

The Jewish leaders demurred. But Blumenfeld suggested using the connections of the Zionist organization for such a mission.

Two Zionists took part in the delegation to London.

They confirmed to their Zionist contacts the reports of the plight of German Jews but insisted that strident protests in the West would be "dangerous," and called Stephen Wise to ask his help in moderating the speeches at the anti-Nazi demonstration in Madison Square Garden.

The British Zionist Board of Deputies and the Anglo-American Association, an organization of assimilated British Jews, as well as the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, assured Germany that they were opposed to an anti-German boycott.

Were Blumenfeld's tactics due to duress, or did he deliberately try to maintain contact with the new regime to ensure a certain freedom of action?

According to Fraenkel, the two explanations are not mutually exclusive.

The Zionists feared their activi-

ty might be banned. But when Jewish business premises and outdoor signs were daubed with paint on the eve of April 1, 1933, the signs of the Zionist institutions were left untouched - obviously on instructions from above, Fraenkel says.

The authorities also enabled the Zionists to maintain their ties with Jews abroad. The foreign ministry advised the interior ministry to issue permanent exit-and-reentry permits to Zionist leaders seeking contact with their organizations abroad.

Jews leaving for Palestine were allowed to acquire the foreign currency necessary to obtain a visa.

THE HESITATION of the German Jews obviously influenced the pitch of protests by Zionist leaders abroad, especially in Palestine.

From the point of view of Jerusalem, the plight of Polish Jews was as grave as or perhaps worse than that of German Jews, although it was not made public by Polish officialdom.

The Zionist solution was, of course, mass immigration to Palestine of all those whose lives were threatened, but that depended on the number of entry documents

allotted by the British.

Mass immigration frightened some Jewish leaders as well as British politicians.

Chaim Weizmann, elected by the Zionist Congress to lead the campaign to save the threatened Jews, shared his misgivings with farmers in Nahalal in 1935.

"Let's say a million will come within 10 years.... The immigrants will settle in the big cities. The National Home, which had been intended as a paragon of pioneering, based on Jewish labor, agriculture, national culture, will instead become a transplant of the ills of the past."

Faithful to the teachings of Ahad Ha'am, Weizmann argued that the ideal of the Jewish State should not be sacrificed for the safety of several thousand people in temporary distress.

But David Ben-Gurion argued that saving Jews was a basic tenet of Herzl's teachings. On February 29, 1938, Ben-Gurion appealed to Lord Melchett to allow the immigration to Palestine of a million Jews from Poland and Germany. Political considerations kept the British from responding to the appeal. The stage was set for the greatest tragedy of the 20th century.

Out of reach, out of mind

KISHON'S KEYHOLE
EPHRAIM KISHON

RENANA is a dear child. There's something positive about her. It's hard to tell positively what, but there is. There must be.

Anyway, while other infants put everything in their mouths, step on things and smash them, Renana never applies force to anything she lays her hands on but simply throws it out through the railings of our second-floor balcony.

Every day at noon when I come home I spend some time picking up the dumb objects littering the pavement in front of our house. Sometimes the neighbors give a hand and collect the books, salt

cellars, fountain pens, ashtrays, cutlery, transistors, records gone to glory, shoes, clocks, typewriters and other surprises. They, the neighbors, ring at our door with armfuls of fall-out and ask: "Why do you give these things to Baby?"

We give 'em, huh? As if Baby couldn't take them herself. She's a very well-developed child, our Renana is. The line on the doorpost - with the pencil held at a slight angle - has reached a high-water mark of 70 cm., and it doesn't need much to figure out that her raised hands can reach anything in the region of 94 cm.

"Ephraim," said the little woman-therapist, "the danger zone is just under a meter...."

And that's where our standard of living began to rise. In one lightning operation all the glass and china in the living room was transferred to the piano. The lower shelves of the bookcase were evacuated and the refugees took to the hills.

Our crystal fruit-bowl was awarded supreme status on top of the cupboard. Shoes were stuck in among the linen. My papers were carefully heaped up in the center of my writing desk, so that Renana's roving hands got only as far as bare table-edge and stopped short of balcony-literature.

"Ho-ho," we grinned at our offspring with a hint of mockery, "nothing more to throw now, huh?"

Renana gritted her teeth and resolutely started to grow. She's like old Dwarf's giraffe which was obliged to lengthen its neck in order to reach the treetops. Our daughter, too, was straining up, up - till after a couple of weeks only a mere two or three centimeters divided her from the closet keys (1.02 meters.)

"Ephraim," said the child's mama, "if she reaches the keys I'm moving out...."

She always moves out as soon as anything goes wrong, though I admit the future did look bleak.

We were particularly sensitive about the phone, which had always stood peacefully on its own little table, but below the Olympic minimum.

Renana toddled over to it in a moment of leisure, pulled the instrument down to the floor level and yelled into the ruins: "Allo! Allo! Allo!"

Her mother leaped swiftly into the fray, grabbed Renana, spanked her behind and shouted over and over:

"Na, na, na! Mustn't touch phone! Not phone! Na, na!"

As a result, our bright child stopped yelling "Allo! Allo!" into the ruins and switched to "Nana!" Since that didn't seem much of an improvement, I took several fat volumes of the encyclopedia, A to C, and placed them under the phone to raise its level of reception. I'll never forget the effect of that hasty step, which occurred one hot day when I came home and tripped over "Aardvark-Barcelona" on the pavement. I real-

ized in a flash that the phone must be out of order....

And sure enough I found my wife mourning over a graveyard of splinters:

"It's the end," she whispered with unseeing eyes. "Renana uses pillows."

Baby, that is, had all on her own discovered Jefferson's Law which says that "a body rises in direct proportion to the object placed under its feet." For the time being she only used the sofa pillows: two of them, she found, would elevate her to the lofty peak of 1.44 meters.

Na-na-na our standard of living was rising again.

Stationery and precious manuscripts went to the mini-concentration camp on the piano. Keys were hung on special nails in the stratosphere to be safe from our pillow-fighter. The radio broadcast at us hi-fi and dry from the cupboard roof, and our creepers crept along the curtain-rods like the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Nevertheless, the boy we had hired to pick up our treasures from the pavement would still tug a rope about once every 15 minutes as a sign for us to haul up a basketful of missiles. Life became rather complicated. Our entire household was piled up on the piano, and in order to make a phone call from the wardrobe one had to get up on the tea trolley....

"Good gracious," sighed the wife one sleepless night, "what'll it be like in a few years...."

I suppose Renana will grow up to be a basketball player. Anyhow, next day at noon I met my neighbor Felix Selig outside with a watercolor round his neck. This work of art happens to portray an Israeli harbor in delicate pinks and mauves, and Selig's head was sticking right through the hull of a freighter. He was speechless. The balcony's on the second floor.

"Yes," I said, "Baby's growing...."

Inside I found the remnants of my wife pale as a sheet. "Ephraim," she whispered, "she... climbs... chairs...." The child, that is, had now discovered Hegel's Law of Progress by Stages and had translated it all by herself into progress by stairs: she had got up on a pillow, from the pillow to the edge of the sewing case, from there onto a chair, and from the chair on our nerves. Our standard of living had thereby risen to such dizzy heights that I guess only the U.S.A. can match it: 160 cm.!

For a start, my writing desk went up to the piano. This piece, for example, is being written at an altitude of 182 cm. above carpet level. True, my head touches the ceiling, but the air up here is bracing.

A person can get used to anything, and children fill one's life with a variety of it. Phone calls are made from the top rung of a ladder bought for the purpose. We dine on the wardrobe-roof in the clouds. They say it's a very healthy way of life: back to the trees. We're gradually learning to walk on the ceiling....

Renana is growing. Last night the wife, ironing, clothes somewhere in the highlands, gave a stifled cry:

"Ephraim!" - with a trembling finger she pointed at Renana down below - "Look!"

Baby was climbing the ladder, step by evolutionary step. That did it. It's been a good life, nice to've met you, but there are limits. I refuse to be a poet with my head perpetually in the clouds. I've asked my wife to write and let me know when Renana's grown up. Till then I'm floored.

Translated by Miriam Arad

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NBA awash with 30-plus scorers

O'Neal, Hardaway lift Magic past Knicks; Miami's Rice, Willis stop Nets

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Basketball Association on Friday night featured three winning teams each getting more than 30 points from two players.

Orlando won its ninth straight game as Shaquille O'Neal scored 38 points and Anfernee Hardaway 33 as the Magic dominated New York 125-100.

Miami won for just the fourth time in 13 games with Glen Rice scoring 34 points and Kevin Willis 31 in a 115-97 decision over New Jersey.

At Portland, defending NBA scoring champion David Robinson scored 32 points and got help from Sean Elliott with 31 in a 95-91 victory over the Trail Blazers.

O'Neal and Hardaway were so effective that with one minute left in the third quarter, the visiting Knicks had 68 points to 64 for O'Neal and Hardaway.

"We asked the team when they were coming out on the floor for our best 48 minutes of basketball of the year, and I think basically that's what we got," coach Brian Hill said. "I don't know if we can play better than we did tonight."

Hardaway and O'Neal sat out much of the fourth quarter, while reserves finished the rout of the Knicks, who were led by 15 points from Patrick Ewing.

Spurs 95, Trail Blazers 91. San Antonio held off Portland for its second road victory in six tries this season.

Robinson's big game was no surprise since he's averaging 28 points, but coach Bob Hill said Robinson needs scoring support from Elliott, who's averaging 16.

"He's been struggling. We just wanted to force-feed him and try to get him going," Hill said.

The Spurs scored the final four points of the game after the Blazers had scored five in a row to tie it 91-91. Chuck Person's 17-footer with 35 seconds to play gave San Antonio the lead for good, 93-91.

Clifford Robinson scored 17 points for the Blazers.

Heat 115, Nets 97. Rice was 14-for-18 and Willis 14-for-23 for Miami. Willis also had a season-high 17 rebounds against visiting New Jersey.

"Those are very good numbers, but I can't be satisfied," Willis said. "I know what I have to do. I have to lead by example."

Kenny Anderson paced New Jersey with 16 points and 13 assists, but the Nets played without Derrick Coleman, their leading scorer and rebounder, because of a sprained right wrist.

Stacey Augmon scored 20 points and Craig Ehlo's first 3-pointer of the season was a big one as Atlanta won the road.

Ehlo's shot gave the Hawks a 79-73 lead, and the Bulls got no closer than five points the rest of the way. Ehlo was playing in only his second game



THE HEAT'S ON — Miami Heat's Glen Rice dunks as New Jersey's Sean Higgins looks on.

after returning from arthroscopic knee surgery.

BJ Armstrong and Toni Kukoc scored 19 points apiece for the Bulls.

Lakers 107, Rockets 89. Cedric Ceballos had 25 points and a career-high 16 rebounds as Los Angeles came back from its third-worst defeat in club history to stun visiting Houston.

Vlade Divac added 22 points for the Lakers, who won for the sixth time in seven games.

The Rockets got a career-high 22

points and 11 rebounds from Carl Herrera.

Bulls 114, Pistons 104. Washington finally won its first game with Chris Webber in the lineup as he had 18 points and nine rebounds against Detroit.

The Bulls were 0-4 since Webber joined the team after being obtained in a trade with Golden State.

Webber, who temporarily left the game in the third quarter to receive three stitches for a cut over his right eye, made eight of 11 shots in 34 minutes.

Calbert Cheaney scored 19 points for the Bulls.

Grant Hill scored 28 and Joe Dumars 20 for the Pistons, who have lost five of seven overall and four straight on the road.

Suns 107, Celtics 102. Phoenix overcame a 22-point second-quarter deficit and a sensational second half by Dominique Wilkins to win on the road.

Wilkins made 10 of his first 11 shots in the second half, and his last basket gave him 34 points and the Celtics a 100-97 lead with 1:47 left. But the Suns scored with a 10-0 run to regain control.

Danny Manning's three-point play and layup started the burst and put Phoenix ahead to stay, 102-100.

The Suns, who won for the ninth time in 11 games, were led by Dan Majerle with 21 points.

76ers 99, Kings 96. Willie Burton had 25 points and Clarence Weatherspoon scored 12 of his 18 points in the final period, helping Philadelphia defeat visiting Sacramento.

The teams were tied 69-69 entering the fourth quarter before Weatherspoon scored six points in a 15-8 run to give the 76ers an 84-77 lead they never lost.

Mitch Richmond led all scorers with 30 points, but he had eight turnovers for the Kings.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS:

Philadelphia 99, Sacramento 96
Phoenix 107, Boston 102
Miami 115, New Jersey 97
Washington 115, Detroit 104
Orlando 125, New York 100
Atlanta 92, Chicago 81
San Antonio 95, Portland 91
LA Lakers 107, Houston 89

THURSDAY'S RESULTS:
Cleveland 93, Milwaukee 87
Denver 89, Dallas 80
Minnesota 96, Utah 84
Indiana 93, LA Clippers 84
Houston 113, Golden State 109

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	11	2	.846	—
Dallas	7	6	.538	3.5
Washington	5	8	.385	5.5
Philadelphia	5	8	.385	5.5
New Jersey	5	8	.385	5.5
Miami	4	9	.308	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	9	5	.643	—
Indiana	8	6	.569	.5
Charlotte	7	7	.500	1.5
Chicago	7	7	.500	1.5
Detroit	7	7	.500	1.5
Milwaukee	5	9	.357	3.5
Atlanta	5	9	.357	3.5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	9	5	.643	—
Seattle	9	5	.643	—
LA Lakers	8	6	.569	1.5
Golden State	8	6	.569	1.5
Portland	6	8	.429	3.5
Sacramento	6	8	.429	3.5
LA Clippers	0	14	.000	10.5

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	11	2	.846	—
New York	7	6	.538	3.5
Boston	7	6	.538	3.5
Washington	5	8	.385	5.5
Philadelphia	5	8	.385	5.5
New Jersey	5	8	.385	5.5
Miami	4	9	.308	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	9	5	.643	—
Indiana	8	6	.569	.5
Charlotte	7	7	.500	1.5
Chicago	7	7	.500	1.5
Detroit	7	7	.500	1.5
Milwaukee	5	9	.357	3.5
Atlanta	5	9	.357	3.5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	9	5	.643	—
Seattle	9	5	.643	—
LA Lakers	8	6	.569	1.5
Golden State	8	6	.569	1.5
Portland	6	8	.429	3.5
Sacramento	6	8	.429	3.5
LA Clippers	0	14	.000	10.5

Sweden sweeps Russia for 5th Davis Cup win

MOSCOW (AP) — Jonas Bjorkman and Jan Apell clinched Sweden's fifth Davis Cup title yesterday, defeating Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy in five sets to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the final.

Bjorkman and Apell won 6-7(4-7), 6-2, 6-3, 1-6, 8-6 to end Russia's hopes of becoming the first unseeded team to capture the Cup.

It was the third straight match to go to five sets. After Kafelnikov's final shot went wide, the ecstatic Swedes hugged each other and hurled team captain John-Anders Sjogren into the air.

"I think we'll open a bottle of vodka tonight. Not for me, but my friends," Sjogren, who is stepping down after nine years as coach, said of his players. "We were very lucky to win this match in two days."

Kafelnikov, looking drained during a post-match news conference, blamed his team's lack of experience; it was Russia's first time in the Davis Cup Final.

"We just lack luck and experience," he said. "But I hope this won't be our last Davis Cup Final," he said.

He also said he felt nervous playing before a raucous hometown crowd of 12,000 in the enormous Olympic Stadium.

"Of course we are human, we have feelings, we felt pressure," he said. "We weren't just playing for ourselves, we were playing for 200 million Russians."

Stefan Edberg kicked off Sweden's sweep on Friday by beating Alexander Volkov 6-4, 6-2, 6-7(2-7), 0-6, 8-6. He was elated after winning in his seventh Davis Cup Final appearance.

Magnus Larsson, ranked 19th

by the ATP Tour, defeated No. 11-ranked Kafelnikov in another thriller, 6-0, 6-2, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3.

Encouraged by a chanting, cheering Russian crowd, Kafelnikov and Olhovskiy took Bjorkman and Apell to the limit, but were unable to break the serve of the recently crowned ATP Tour doubles champions in the final set.

Serving to stay in the match at 6-7, Olhovskiy double-faulted at deuce, giving Sweden the advantage and setting up Kafelnikov's final shot from the net.

The Swedes played more aggressively, charging the net twice as often as the Russians and scoring from there twice as much as well.

For the Swedish team, it was the third straight victory against the Russians in Davis Cup competition. Sweden last won the Davis Cup in 1987.



WAYNE & FRIENDS — Wayne Gretzky of the LA Kings (r) and NY Rangers' Mark Messier (l) take a break from training for a charity game in Helsinki against a select Finnish team. (AP)

NHL strike nears 10-week mark

CHICAGO (AP) — National Hockey League labor talks ended abruptly Friday, even though a collective bargaining agreement probably needs to be in place by mid-December to save the season.

"You're saying we have two more weeks, but I'm not quite sure. And even if we did, it goes by awfully quickly," said Cliff Fletcher, the Toronto Maple Leafs' general manager. "It's like driving a car 100 miles an hour, racing toward a cliff. You'd better make sure you know how to put the brakes on in time."

So far, the sides only know how to put the brakes on negotiations. The latest delay guarantees that the owners' lockout will carry into a 10th week.

An eight-hour meeting Thursday had produced hope that an accord could be reached in time to salvage a 50-game season. But the sides met for only an hour Friday before agreeing to postpone talks until tomorrow in Chicago.

"The calendar is coming toward us like a freight train. At some point, it's not going to be possible to have a season. Hopefully, that's going to add some pressure to the talks from both sides," NHL senior vice president Brian Burke said.

The players, however, insist they've been operating with a sense of urgency and say they've been making all the concessions.

"It is getting a little tiresome in the sense that this has been characterized so far as a negotiation of concession," NHL Players Association president Mike Gartner said. "That's what happens, I guess, in a lockout. I guess if we would have given enough, there would be hockey right now."

The latest union concessions came Thursday, when the NHLPA agreed to allow each team to designate a "franchise player" who could be kept from becoming a free agent if he is paid a certain salary.

Gartner and union head Bob Goodenow contacted several potential franchise players, including some who are skating for the all-star team Wayne Gretzky has assembled to play in Europe during the lockout.

"Their reaction was that they weren't too happy about it," Gartner said. "But they did say, 'If this is going to get a deal, we understand.'"

The union on Thursday also agreed to drop its desired salary ceiling for first-round draft picks from \$1.5-1.25 million, but the owners refused to budge from their \$700,000 figure.

The main sticking points in negotiations continued to be salary arbitration, free agency and other ways the owners can fix costs.

Each team already has had 24 games canceled from its 84-game schedule because of the lockout. More cuts are likely.

Holyfield fires manager who opposed comeback

ATLANTA (AP) — Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, intending to resume his career despite a recent heart problem, has fired manager Shelly Finkel, who opposes the comeback.

Finkel has been in Holyfield's camp since 1984 and has played a

prominent role since the fighter fired business manager Ken Sanders in 1991.

Holyfield, 32, has been on medical suspension because of a heart problem. Last month he received medical clearance to fight again by the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Finkel, who still manages a handful of fighters, most notably Pernell Whitaker, has said it is unwise for Holyfield to fight again.

Holyfield hopes to be removed from boxing's medical suspension list and licensed by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

Attracting athletes to Hawaii no easy task

HONOLULU (AP) — Trying to get a young athlete to commit to a university an ocean away from the American mainland is an annual challenge for Hawaii coach Riley Wallace. Often, it's an outrageous adventure.

Not only do Riley and his staff have to convince players to cross the Pacific, they also have to ward off some incredible tales spun by others in the competitive world of recruiting.

"One time, a recruiter told a player he could get caught in a volcanic eruption if he played here," Wallace said. "Another told a player there were demons in Hawaii. One told a player he'd never be heard from again because he would be playing out of the country."

"I guess some people don't know Hawaii is part of the United States and that Honolulu is as modern as any city in the country."

Despite its recent success — Hawaii made it to tournament action last year — trying to get a player to make a commitment a difficult task for the Hawaii staff.

Generally, a player who accepts the Hawaii

challenge will be a junior college transfer student.

"They're more adaptable because most have already lived away from home," Wallace said. "They're more willing to stake it out. It's difficult to recruit freshmen for a four- to five-year commitment because it will usually be the first time away from home for them."

Two recent signees are attending junior colleges on the mainland. Of the eight new players on this year's team, six come with JC backgrounds.

As for the two freshmen, one is a local product and the other is from California with relatives living in Hawaii. The California coast is about 4,000 kilometers from Hawaii.

Wallace says Hawaii's sales pitch is straightforward and simple.

"You've got to sell academics, even with the junior college players," Wallace said. "When we do that, we put pressure on the other recruiters. Our emphasis is on the players getting their degrees and, believe me, we really stay on

'em."

At last count, according to Wallace, the Hawaii program is among the top Division I universities on the listing of players receiving degrees.

From there, the focus is on the basketball program, including a new arena, a tough schedule and national television coverage.

Another selling point is the state's beauty and its population mix.

"Let's face it," he said. "Players who come here have to stick it out. They can't hop on a bus or catch a ride when they get homesick. That's the challenge we offer some of them. We tell them they should consider getting away from home so they can grow and mature."

"And this is a good place to live because of its beauty and diversity of cultures — a true melting pot. We have something in Hawaii no one else can offer and that's an experience in living in this environment, this situation, which I think gives a player a real chance to grow up and mature."

Football teams give way to parity

NEW YORK (AP) — With less than a month left in the regular season, parity has taken over the National Football

League.

Take Dallas and San Francisco out of the mix and the NFL is the ultimate parody of former commissioner Pete Rozelle's vision "on any given day."

To wit:

● Fifteen teams, more than half the league, are between 7-5 and 5-7 and eight are at .500. If the playoffs started next week, a 500 team would qualify in each conference — the Jets in the AFC and the Packers or Falcons in the NFC.

● Philadelphia, a team that seemed a month ago to have a chance to challenge the 49ers and Cowboys in the NFC now has lost three straight and dropped to 7-5.

● Pittsburgh and Cleveland are tied at 9-3 with San Diego for the best record in the AFC.

Here's how bizarre it gets.

The Browns moved to 9-3 last Sunday by beating Houston 34-10 with Vinny Testaverde back at quarterback after owner Art Modell made it clear to coach Bill Belichick that he wants one quar-

terback, not a revolving door between Testaverde and Mark Rypien.

Pittsburgh beat the Raiders 21-3 with Mike Tomczak at quarterback, but coach Bill Cowher said Neil O'Donnell, his leg healed, would back this week when the Steelers visit Cincinnati.

But the Steelers may be glad the game is on the road — Tomczak is the favorite of Pittsburgh fans.

"Everybody has an opinion," he said. "If they didn't, life would be pretty dull. Sure, some people will be disappointed, but I'm sure we'll keep everybody's support if we keep on winning."

But will they?

Pittsburgh is the "hot" team in the AFC now, primarily because of its defense. But the Eagles, which were hot three weeks ago at 7-2, are suddenly groping for identities.

Why?

"I wish I could pinpoint why we've lost three in a row. We're all frustrated right now," said the Eagles' Rich Kotite, a candidate for coach of the year a month ago; a candidate for a new job next year.

The new salary cap-free agency system may be a reason why winning and losing is a matter of a play or two a game.

In New England's 12-10 win over the Colts, Don Majkowski's

NFL considering penalty box

NEW YORK (AP) — In an attempt to curb flagrant violence, the NFL Competition Committee has been asked to study the possibility of introducing a penalty box for players who deliver dangerous hits to a quarterback.

Greg Aiello, the NFL's director of communication, confirmed that the proposal had been made by one team. He emphasized that such a suggestion had been made several times in the past, but never got out of the committee for a discussion by the team owners.

"From previous history, it wouldn't seem to have much chance to pass," Aiello said. "It's never been taken seriously before because we have ways to penalize players, including ejection."

There's no way to predict if it would have support this time.

The committee meets during the off-season. For the proposal to pass, it would need approval by 23 of the 30 owners.

Aiello said no specifics on the proposal have been addressed, such as whether teams would be allowed to replace the penalized player or a team would have to play a man short for one play or more.

TODAY

■ CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 13:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 World Rugby 17:30 Israeli soccer 18:00 NBA 19:30 Goal and a half 20:00 Bushido 20:30 College basketball 22:00 Argentinean league soccer 23:30 Goal and a half 00:00 Volleyball

■ EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Figure skating 11:00 Live men's alpine skiing 13:30 Live Davis Cup final: Sweden v Russia 15:30 Live European swimming championships from Norway 17:00 Live speed skating 18:30 Live women's alpine skiing 20:15 Alpine skiing 21:00 Speed skating 22:00 Live alpine skiing 23:00 Davis Cup final 00:00 Sliding highlights 1:00 Live Brazilian league soccer

■ PRIME SPORTS

6:15 Live field hockey from Australia 8:00 Soccer 10:00 International sports magazine 11:30 Power boats 11:30 Selling 12:30 Live golf from Sun City 17:00 Field hockey 20:00 Golf from Sun City 2:30 Power boats

■ PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Selling 8:30 Asian soccer 8:30 International sports magazine 9:30 Selling 10:00 Baseball from Arizona 12:00 Aerobics 12:30 ABC 13:00 Soccer 14:00 Selling 17:00 Water sports magazine 19:00 Asian soccer 22:00 Baseball from Arizona 00:00 Water sports magazine 1:00 Selling 1:30 Aerobics

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6

■ CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Table tennis 17:30 Israeli basketball: Macabbi Rishon v Macabbi TA 18:30 English league soccer highlights 19:30 Daily roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 European soccer 22:00 Brazilian league soccer 23:00 Great sporting moments 00:30 (to be announced)

■ EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Golf 12:00 Speed swimming 13:00 Best goals 14:30 Soccer from Japan 16:00 Drag racing 18:30 Speed world 18:30 Latin American soccer 19:00 Best goals 20:30 EuroSPORT news 21:00 European league soccer 22:00 European sliding magazine 22:00 UEFA Cup soccer

■ PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Live cricket: Australia v England 13:30 Monday 6:00 Golf 18:00 Cricket: Australia v England 18:00 Live cricket: Australia v England 1:30 Aerobics

WEDNESDAY DEC. 7

■ CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 European basketball 18:00 Tennis tournament from Moscow 19:30 Daily roundup: soccer 20:00 Bushido 20:30 College basketball 22:00 Great moments from World Cup 84 23:30 Daily roundup: soccer

■ EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Figure skating 11:00 European sliding 12:00 Body building 13:00


MONDAY DECEMBER 5

■ CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 College basketball 18:00 Argentinean league soccer 19:30 Israeli soccer 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Live Israeli basketball: Macabbi Rishon v Macabbi TA 22:10 English league soccer highlights 23:30 Israeli basketball roundup 00:00 Israeli basketball: Macabbi Rishon v Macabbi TA

■ EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Figure skating from the US 12:00 Alpine skiing 14:00 Speed skating 15:00 Davis Cup tennis 17:30 World Rallying 18:30 Brazilian league soccer 19:00 EuroSPORT news 21:00 Speed world 22:00 Soccer 23:00 Soccer 2

	21 Abominable (4)	17 Wading bird (6)
	23 Understand (7)	19 Lees (5)
	25 Stopping (7)	20 Detritus (6)
	26 Talent (5)	22 Minimum (5)
	27 Designation (5)	24 Broad (4)
	28 Foreigners (6)	

Ministry: We won't close psychiatric hospitals

A REPORT that the Health Ministry plans to close all but one of the country's psychiatric hospitals has been sharply denied.

In an article in the *Ma'ariv* magazine on Friday, Dr. Moshe Avnon, director of the Sha'ar Menashe state psychiatric hospital near Hadera, the country's largest, claimed that the entire psychiatric community is up in arms about plans prepared by Health Ministry Director-General Prof. Mordechai Shani and chief ministry psychiatrist Dr. Moti Mark.

Avnon said the two have adopted a policy that has proven a failure in the US and England, where many thousands of discharged psychiatric patients roam the streets and terrorize the population.

Avnon said that in April, the health funds will assume responsibility for psychiatric care, instead of the government, and that neither they nor the community clinics are ready for this revolution. He quoted Shani as saying once, but not repeating it, that by 2000,

JUDY SIEGEL

there will be no more psychiatric hospitals.

Shani, in a comment included in the article, denied the ministry intends to close most psychiatric hospitals. "What is being done is to examine professionally all chronically ill patients, and it is likely that 500 of them will be released in a year to hostels and protected housing."

He added that Israel "will not repeat the mistakes made in the US and England. We are pursuing a gradual process in accordance with professional developments."

Kupat Holim Clalit, which owns three psychiatric hospitals and dozens of psychiatric clinics, has no intention of closing any of them, spokesman David Tagar said last night.

Prof. Shmuel Tyano, chairman of the Israel Psychiatric Association, issued a statement Friday disagreeing with Avnon's charges.

"The viewpoints expressed in

this article don't represent the level of treatment given today to psychiatric patients in this country, and certainly not the high level of rehabilitation that we have achieved. Modern psychiatry has proven not only that mental patients are not murderers, but that they are less dangerous than the non-psychiatric population."

Thus, said Tyano, who also directs the Geha state psychiatric hospital, the association favors the discharge of patients whose condition is being controlled with medication and who receive close follow-up care in hostels and community clinics.

But no patient has - or will - be discharged without being found suited for outpatient care, he added.

The association, he added, has demanded the establishment of many more outpatient clinics to care for some 1,000 patients who are well enough to leave psychiatric hospitals but are still there because of the lack of facilities.

Histadrut delays debate on Arab vote

THE Histadrut's leadership had to cancel today's scheduled parliament debate on the election of workers' committee heads in the Arab sector, after the injunction issued last week by the Histadrut's national judiciary authority forbidding appointment of Ram people to such posts.

The injunction not only bans Ram from making such appointments, but also prevents them until democratic elections are held in 13 Arab townships and settlements to determine the labor committee heads there.

The judiciary authority's ruling, which Labor sources described as "a slap in the face to Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon," halts Ram's attempts to increase their political power in the Arab sector, where Ram, the Histadrut's ruling party, does not have a majority.

Ram leaders, who want to replace incumbent workers' committee heads in the Arab sector with their own people, had passed a decision to do so in the Histadrut Parliament last month.

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

But the judiciary authority's injunction, which was requested by Labor's Histadrut faction as well as by the Histadrut's labor council section, declares the Parliament's resolutions null and void.

In its appeal to the Histadrut tribunal, Labor demanded that Ram be prevented from using its majority in the Parliament to obtain "narrow partisan interests. Ram had received less than 20% of the vote of the Arab sector, while Labor got the overwhelming majority of 50% to 70%."

Therefore, removing the incumbent Arab workers' secretaries and appointing Ram supporters in their stead would distort democracy and the voters' will.

The judiciary authority ruled that the Histadrut Parliament had acted improperly by not passing the proposal to change the labor council constitution to the Histadrut Constitutional Committee first.

Furthermore, it blasted Parlia-

ment Chairman MK Ran Cohen (Ram) for not including the issue on the Parliament's agenda on November 6, when the vote was held, thus agreeing with Labor's stand that Cohen had effected a "vote grab."

Labor Party Spokesman Yoram Dori commented that the judiciary authority's ruling "showed Cohen and Ram that basic democratic rules apply to the Histadrut as well. Ram must understand that the system of political manipulations is over and from now on it must act according to the constitution."

Cohen called a meeting of the Constitution Committee last week to discuss the appointments so that the Histadrut Parliament could decide on them in today's session, instead of the decisions rendered null and void by the tribunal.

But committee member Gideon Ben-Yisrael said the committee has no legal authority because its chairman, Ram member Shai Hermez, is not an attorney, as required by the constitution.



Outgoing OC Northern Command Yitzhak Mordechai (right) passes his epaulette tag to his successor Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine at a ceremony Friday.

Levine takes over as OC Northern Command

MAJ.-GEN. Amiram Levine on Friday officially took over his duties as OC Northern Command after receiving the epaulette tag from outgoing head Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai.

Hundreds of people, including Druse and Beduin, as well as senior IDF officers and soldiers, attended the ceremony in cold and windy conditions at Northern Command headquarters.

Mordechai, who is taking leave before deciding on his future, expressed his appreciation to well-wishers who braved the wintry

conditions to attend the formal handing over of command ceremony.

Levine said he was proud to take over the mantle from Mordechai, whom he described as soldiers' soldier.

"I think that if you could summarize it in one word, it would be paratrooper - in the context of a fighter who is in every place and always at the head; as a commander who never missed a front or a battle or a war and was

always leading his officers and soldiers," said Levine.

"He is highly experienced, after more than 30 years in the army, and I'm sure that he will find his way to continue to contribute to the security of the State, society and the nation," he said.

Levine is taking over the command at what might prove to be a crucial period with attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army in the zone occurring on an almost daily basis.

SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, who was also at the ceremony, told *The Jerusalem Post* recent rumors that the SLA was in danger of breaking up, due to uncertainty over the future in the event of peace between Israel and Lebanon, were unfounded.

"The SLA was not founded yesterday. It is a veteran army and a strong one and in a better situation than it has ever been. I don't know what the background is for all the rumors that have gone round in Israel about the SLA breaking up. They are completely baseless."

Ramon blasted for use of personal contracts

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

TRADE union leaders and labor council secretaries last week blasted the Histadrut leadership for employing senior workers on personal contracts.

At a stormy, six-hour gathering at Histadrut headquarters Thursday, the union and council leaders roundly condemned Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon's decision to employ workers by personal contract, pointing out that they now don't have a leg to stand on when fighting employers.

Last week, the labor council secretaries declared a rebellion against Ramon, announcing that until he cancels the wage increases and benefits allotted to those close to him, they would cease all cooperation with him. The labor council secretaries were referring to Ramon's moves to approve managers insurance to people close to him in the Histadrut.

Ashdod man murdered at acid party in Yavne

AN Ashdod man was murdered early Friday morning during an LSD party at Yavne's new central bus station.

At about 5 a.m., three revelers went outside to bring drinks and saw a brawl in which one man was stabbing another. The attacker then fled.

The three brought the injured man to the nearby police station.

On the way, they asked him what had happened, and he would only say: "Nothing happened; nothing special."

When they arrived at the po-

lice station, the man collapsed. A Magen David Adom team arrived, but he had already died.

Police arrived at the acid party and took in some 55 revelers, 19-40, for questioning.

Four of them, who police believe can give concrete information, were detained. Moreover, police said they had witnesses to the stabbing.

The victim had a criminal record, police said.

Police believe the murder resulted from a quarrel between criminals.

(Itim)

Shahal asks for limitations on gas trucks using highways

AS a result of the Haifa gasoline pipeline leak and the expected number of fuel trucks traveling between Jordan and Haifa, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has asked that limits be placed on the times at which fuel trucks can use the highways.

He told a Friday press conference in Haifa that he has asked Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar to examine restricting them to traveling between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Shahal said he and Kessar would meet to discuss problems the Transport Ministry raised about his proposal.

He added that a joint team from the two ministries would examine all aspects of the idea.

The closure of the "white gasoline" pipeline may increase the number of gasoline trucks using the highways by several hundred a day, according to Moshe Bar-Ilan, head of the Haifa Oil Refineries.

(Itim)

New York hassid killer found guilty

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

AFTER two days of deliberations, a jury found Rashid Baz guilty of murder and attempted murder in the shooting last March of a van carrying yeshiva students on the Brooklyn Bridge.

"This was the most emotional day," Michael Miller, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council in New York, said after the verdict. "The jury forewoman kept reading 'guilty, guilty' - 16 times."

Baz was convicted late Thursday by a jury that rejected his "Beirut defense." The defense attorney had contended that Baz, 28, was not mentally responsible because of the trauma he had suffered growing up in the Lebanese capital. He was described by his

attorney as a "teenage war veteran" who had joined one of the Lebanese militias at the age of nine.

Baz faces a minimum 140-year sentence.

Aaron Halberstam, 16, died and three of the 15 other passengers were wounded when Baz sprayed their van with gunfire as the students were returning to Brooklyn from a Manhattan hospital. They had been praying there for the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Israeli-born Nachum Sasonkin was shot in the head in that attack and had not been expected to survive.

He remains deaf in one ear, slurs his speech and walks with difficulty. Sasonkin testified at the trial, although he could not recall the events.

The entire Lubavitch community of Crown Heights was affected by the shooting. "Virtually every family had a brother, cousin, nephew on that van," said one community activist. "The psychological impact on the community was staggering."

After the verdict, David Halberstam, the dead boy's father, said: "Tonight is the fifth night of Hanukka, whose meaning is that good won over evil. That's what we had tonight. Good won over evil."

Sarid orders probe against firm that failed to report fire

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid on Friday ordered a criminal investigation launched against the KZAA company, after an investigation showed it was operating at a site outside Ashkelon without a proper license.

The probe, led by Environment Ministry Deputy Director-General Aharon Vardi and Southern District director Arik Bar-Sadeh, was launched after a report that a fire had broken out at the plant after lightning hit a tanker.

The fire was not reported as re-

quired, and a check Friday by the ministry team showed the site was operating without a license and the necessary permit for plants which use hazardous materials. The investigation will also look into why KZAA did not report the fire.

Reuven Boneh, KZAA managing director, said yesterday that the company "had nothing to hide." He said KZAA was open for the inspection of any inquiry committees, journalists or any other public body interested in seeing its operations.

(Itim)

Where Are The Modern Day Maccabees?

Wouldn't the Maccabees ask today
Whose Land is This?

OH ARAB OF ISRAEL...

Oh Arab of Israel
You claim this is your land
When really it isn't,
It's time to understand.

Though on its hills
You tend the sheep,
Your children herd the goats
And in its villages you sleep.

You live in towns and cities
In this, the Jewish land,
Prospering as equals
Far from the Arabian sand.

And in its market places
You buy and sell your wares,
Supported by a system
That everybody shares.

You can work and buy a house
And go to school and learn,
And are given Universities
From the people that you spurn.

So why do you want this Israel,
Where you say you've lived so long?
There's many reasons why you came
Where, in truth, you don't belong.

When Jews returned this century
Even war and desolation
They told the old waste places,
And restored for desecration.

They turned this conquered wasteland
Into a fruitful field,
And drew the Arab wanderer
To want some of the yield.

Was it not in Palestine
As wanderers you came?
Through the centuries,
In and out again?

Through conquer and conquered
You sojourned the Middle East,
Miserable and subjugated
By Pharaoh, Pines and Poles.

By Zimra (a non-Jewish friend frequently in Israel, from Vancouver, Canada)

And Islam too fought battles
For power, land and might,
Sifting people at their whim
Not caring for their plight.

In two great wars great powers,
Created countries new from old,
Changing nations borders
To manipulate the gold.

Throughout the world the masses
Are the spoil that victors rule,
Using them to bargain
For power, land and fuel.

The Arabs as a people
Have now, because of oil,
Become the tool of politics,
A pawn for greedy spoil.

But have the oil rich princes
Given the Arab man a home
In one of the 22 countries
They now can call their own?

You now have many homelands,
Back where you've wandered from,
Now oil rich Islamic nations,
From whence your ancestors have come.

So you can now go back to them,
You don't need another State,
Why should you live in Israel
With the Jews you hate?

Oh Arab of Israel,
You really don't want peace,
The Jews have tried to live with you
But your hatred will not cease.

Instead the deadly knife you wield
To terrorize and kill,
To make them break and yield
To the Arab will.

Oh Arab of Israel,
This land does not belong to you,
For you will NEVER ever claim
Gods Homeland of the Jew!!

"Then answered Simon, and said unto him, We have neither taken other men's land nor holden that which appertaineth to others, but the inheritance of our fathers, which our enemies have wrongfully in possession a certain time. Wherefore we have opportunity, hold the inheritance of our fathers."

(Maccabees, XV 14-15)

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TEL AVIV	He'aretz Museum	Wed. Dec. 21	Era	09-587608
NAHARIYA	Heichel Hatarbut	Thur. Dec. 22	Box office	03-6422059
TEL AVIV	ZOA House	Sat. Dec. 24	Le'an	03-5247373
			Box office	04-927935
			04-920330, 04-926255	
			Box office	03-6959341
			Le'an	03-5247373

For more details, call ALFI: 03-5249590/85

ALFI Theatre Arts Ltd.,
In conjunction with
The Jerusalem Post,
and supported by
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Argument ends in stabbing

A Tel Aviv man was seriously wounded Friday when his friend stabbed him during an argument. The two men were walking down Allenby Street talking, when an argument erupted and one pulled a knife. The wounded man was taken to Ichilov Hospital, while his assailant was arrested.

(Itim)

Bat Yam man charged with causing boy's death

A Bat Yam man was indicted Friday for negligently causing the death by of an 11-year-old boy, who was crushed to death under an iron closet left on the street by the defendant.

According to prosecutor Rafi Levy, Arik Gabai leaned the closet against the wall of a bomb shelter, sometimes used as a synagogue, blocking its entrance. Two days later, on October 20, 1990, Hanan Muallem's head was crushed under the closet, fatally injuring him. Levy said Gabai was negligent in leaving the closet without anyone to watch it and not arranging for it to be taken someplace where it would not endanger anyone.

(Itim)

Man charged with bribing IDF doctor

Yosef Tzilit, 29, of Ramat Gan, has been charged with bribing an army doctor. According to the indictment presented in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on Friday, he paid Maj. Zvi Marbani \$1,500 to lower his profile so he would be assigned to a reserve unit closer to his home.

(Itim)

License bureau to expand hours

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar has decided to expand the hours of the License Bureau. Starting today, the bureau will be open in the afternoon on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. The new hours will first take effect in Jerusalem, Holon, Haifa and Beersheba, to be followed by all offices.

(Itim)

Sheves to testify at Deri trial

EVELYN GORDON

SHIMON Sheves, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, will testify today at the trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri.

Deri is on trial in the Jerusalem District Court for bribe-taking, fraud, breach of trust and falsifying corporate documents.

Sheves' testimony, which is expected to last several days, will relate to the charge that Deri misused his influence at the ministry to obtain alternate lands for religious families who bought plots in Nebi Samwil.

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Michael Frank
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Arutz 7 711 AM at 12:10 a.m.



Tuesday, October 10.
Succot, 1995